

THURSDAY 30p EVERY WEEKDAY

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28 PAGES OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES

How healthy is Hague? Dr STUTTFORD page 20

THURSDAY 30p EVERY WEEKDAY

No 10 pledges action on leaks and lobbyists



Surgeon's scalpel produces wonders MATTHEW PARRIS

HOW did he look, after his op? From my gallery seat only William Hague's bald patch was visible. I studied it before he spoke for indications of his mental state. It looked pale and stressed. Who would have guessed that an assault of such ferocity was about to be launched on the Prime Minister?

Well, since Tony Blair did the same when he was Leader of the Opposition. Hague had also kicked a new buzz word into the political arena. "Kicked" understates. The Tory leader picked it up, socked it in, socked it in a second time, picked it up again, whacked it through the goal posts three or four more times, threw it in the air and smashed it yet again into the net.

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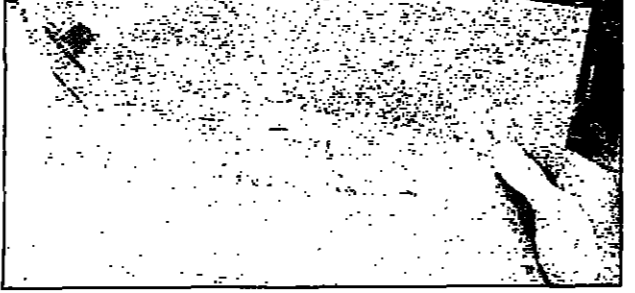
Blair in the dock over 'cronyism'

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL EVANS

TONY BLAIR fought to protect the reputation of his Government against charges of cronyism yesterday by promising that anyone leaking its secrets or overstepping the rules on contacts with lobbyists would be "out on their ear".

As the cash-for-access controversy and the wholesale leak of the long-awaited Strategic Defence Review gave the Government its worst week since the general election, William Hague told Mr Blair that he was surrounding himself with "feather-bedding, pocket-lining, money-grabbing cronies".

facts between the Government and lobbyists would be put into force soon and left those present with the impression that he had been shaken by the week's events. Mr Draper resigned from the lobbying firm that suspended him earlier in the week. He was said to have resigned in the best interests of his firm GPC Market Access, its clients and staff.



A copy of the defence White Paper was leaked to The Times on Tuesday and delivered in a brown envelope

Robertson says asset sales will cushion defence cuts

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

A CUT of nearly £1 billion in the defence budget over the next three years was announced yesterday as part of the Government's Strategic Defence Review that will restructure the Armed Forces for the third time in eight years.

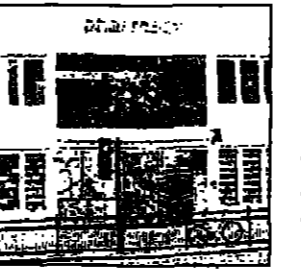
George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said the £915 million cutback would be offset by "one-off asset sales", reducing the cut to "some £685 million", about 3 per cent in real terms.

Celebrity restaurant prescribed bitter pill

By STEPHEN FARRELL

PHARMACY, the trendy Damien Hirst and Marco Pierre White restaurant frequented by pop stars and celebrities, is to be prosecuted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society over its name.

The "concept" restaurant, co-owned by Hirst, Matthew Freud and Jonathan Kennedy from the world of public relations, and Liam Carson, the former Groucho Club entrepreneur, faces a £1,000 fine under the 1968 Medicines Act for illegal use of a sign that can be displayed only by authorised chemists.



Pharmacy restaurant: facing prosecution

chemists, has taken legal advice and fears members of the public seeking prescriptions could be confused. Susan Sharpe, its spokeswoman, said last night that discussions with the Department of



John Hart Jr, who was left £1.4 million by Lawrence Dabbs in a re-written will

Unlawful killing verdict given on 'suicide'

By DEBORAH COLLETT

A MILLIONAIRE who was found dead in his fume-filled car a month after making his neighbour's son the major beneficiary of his will was unlawfully killed, an inquest jury decided yesterday.

John Hart Jr, 37, was left £1.4 million by Lawrence Dabbs, 74, whose death at his luxury bungalow in Derbyshire in 1996 was originally treated as suicide. A murder investigation was launched after forensic scientists found glove prints on the hose attached to car exhaust, but no prosecution was brought.

After 22 days in which they heard evidence from 60 witnesses, the panel of six men and four women ruled yesterday that Mr Dabbs had been unlawfully killed.

France reach the World Cup final

France, the nation that invented the World Cup tournament, reached the final of the competition for the first time last night. Lilian Thuram scored twice as they beat Croatia 2-1 in Paris after the Croats had taken the lead through Davor Suker. The French now face the favourites, Brazil, but will be without Laurent Blanc, defender, who was sent off.

Pathologist dispatched to Nigeria

BRITAIN sent one of its top pathologists to Nigeria yesterday to conduct a post-mortem examination on Chief Moshood Abiola amid growing unrest and rumours that he was poisoned.

Price cutting curb rejected by MPs

MPs last night overwhelmingly rejected a fresh attempt by Labour backbenchers to curb pricing-cutting campaigns by national newspapers. Amendments designed to tighten up rules in the Competition Bill to ban newspapers using a dominant market position to damage rivals were defeated by 301 to 68, a majority of 233.

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Brown envelopes left for reporters outside MPs' tea room

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE likelihood of a Whitehall inquiry finding the culprit for the biggest breach of security since the 1996 Budget leak looked bleak last night.

More than 2,000 copies of the strategic defence review were dispatched on Monday and Tuesday to Forces' and defence establishments in Britain and around the world from the Mill Hill headquarters, North London, of the Defence Postal and Courier Ser-

vice George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, had insisted that all commanding officers and heads of MoD organisations and units should be briefed personally on the outcome so that they could inform staff.

The papers were, in the words of officials, "pre-positioned" across the world with orders that they should not be opened until yesterday. Any person disenchanted with the findings of the review could have decided to leak it and to throw the launch into turmoil.

About 8.30pm on Tuesday, three

lobby correspondents, including Andrew Pierce of *The Times*, received anonymous calls through the Westminster telephone switchboard asking whether they wanted a copy of the document. The reporters were directed to brown envelopes which, in the case of the *Financial Times* and the *Daily Mail*, were left on a table outside the Members' tea room, and in the case of *The Times* outside the government whips' office. They bore handwritten names and addresses.

The leaker had to be an MP or

one of the relatively few officials with access to such areas. The reporters were not the only recipients. Robin Oakley, the BBC's political editor, revealed that he had been shown a copy of the report about 6pm by Robert Key, a Conservative front bench defence spokesman. Sources close to Mr Key deny that he passed it on to the newspapers. Mr Key had also received the document anonymously.

With conspiracy theories abounding that the Government had itself leaked the report to

distract attention from the cash-for-access row, Mr Oakley's disclosure at least opened up an alternative possibility, as Mr Blair suggested in the Commons. Did the Conservatives want to take the shine off the launch by embroiling the Government in yet another row about leaking?

Nonsense, said the Tories. Only the Government could leak a government report. "And anyway, we wanted the sleaze row to stay on the front pages," a Tory strategist said.

The leak was so serious that Sir

Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, was searching last night for an outside investigator to head the inquiry. A senior detective from the Metropolitan Police could even be asked to take on the role, working alongside a retired senior official.

Any civil servant or member of the Government found to have leaked details would face the sack, while military personnel could face disciplinary action and even court martial.

The reports were completed by a secure printer in the North of

England and copies arrived in London after the weekend. They were sent out from Mill Hill on Monday and arrived on most people's desks on Tuesday. The reports were not numbered. Separate envelopes containing instructions for opening the embargoed brown packages were also dispatched.

Five hundred copies were earmarked for the MoD press office to hand out to journalists. Their classification was "confidential."

Winners and losers, page 12

Blunkett bans calculators for pupils under 8

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS announced a ban on calculators for children under eight yesterday as part of a £60 million drive to ensure that three quarters of pupils leaving primary school reach their expected level in mathematics.

The Government's numeracy strategy, to be introduced next year, will provide five-year-olds with at least 45 minutes of mathematics each day. By the age of nine, that will increase to an hour.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said teachers should use "tried and tested methods", including the chanting of tables. But he quoted the example of a primary school setting tables to reggae music as an illustration of how such activities could be made fun.

With only 64 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching their expected level in national tests, the Government has set a lower target than for English.

Mr Blunkett said: "It is regrettable that we have too many children who can't add up or do basic sums by the time they start secondary school. It is not acceptable that four in ten children are in this position now."

The 98-page report of a taskforce chaired by Professor David Reynolds, of Newcastle University, calls for a greater emphasis on mental arithmetic, with the whole class taught together for most of each lesson. The report calls for a reduction in the use of calculators throughout primary education, with their introduction delayed until children have acquired basic numerical skills.

Mr Blunkett said: "This strategy will ensure there is no use of calculators in schools below the age of eight. It is vital that children are taught when and how to use calculators, and when not."

Although schools will not be obliged to adopt the recommended approach, there will be a compulsory audit of mathematics teaching, Professor Reynolds said teachers should consider whether the new methods could raise stan-

dards and schools would be judged on subsequent results.

Professor Reynolds said that although some primary schools persisted in using whole-class teaching for only 15-20 per cent of lesson time, most had been won over. The National Numeracy Project, which has pioneered a similar approach in hundreds of schools, is receiving 150 calls a day from teachers wanting details of the methods.

The strategy will set targets set for every local authority to make progress towards the national goal of 75 per cent of 11-year-olds reaching level 4 of the national curriculum by 2002. Authorities will then agree their own targets with each primary school.

Total funding of £60 million will allow for the recruitment of 300 numeracy consultants to advise schools. Intensive training will be made available to all primary teachers, with extra support going to those schools which local authorities identify as having the most need to improve.

The report also calls for schools to set regular mathematics homework and to provide more support for parents to help their children.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the lack of prescription.



North Yorkshire trading standards officials found up to seven times the legal level of colourants in some curries

Health scare over curry colour

By PAUL WILKINSON

CURRY lovers are putting their health at risk eating meals overloaded with dangerous colourants, trading standards officers said yesterday.

Up to seven times the legal limit of yellow, green or red colouring of some exotic Asian meals was found in an investigation of Indian restaurants in North Yorkshire. In all, 17 of the 23 restaurants visited exceeded the legal levels. The colouring was a chemical dye routinely added to appeal to a westerner's notion of what curries should look like, the officials said. They said it could pose a serious health hazard. Gordon

Gresty, the county's chief trading standards officer, fears that the practice is widespread across the country.

He said: "People who suffer from sensitivity to aspirin as well as people who suffer from asthma can experience problems if their meals contain too much of the colourants. Other people can also suffer gastric problems if the meals contain too much colourant."

His officers have already successfully prosecuted one restaurant owner who added excessive amounts of the dyes Ponceau 4R, tartrazine and sunset yellow to his food, and more prosecutions are pending. Out of 23 meals tested, 17 contained levels of the artificial

colorant that exceeded the limits set by the 1955 Colours in Food Regulations. In one case a level seven times the maximum was detected.

He said restaurant owners used the cheap artificial dyes to mimic the effects of much more expensive spices. For example, an 80p one-ounce jar of yellow colouring agent contains the equivalent of £400-worth of saffron.

Mohammed Aslam, whose Agrar chain of Kashmiri restaurants in Yorkshire does not use additives, said that highly coloured dishes were a 'purely English idea. "At home people would wonder what they are getting if a bright red dish was put in front of them."

NEWS IN BRIEF

BBC gives Birt 9% pay rise

Sir John Birt received a 9 per cent pay rise last year. The BBC Director-General's remuneration package totalled £387,000, the corporation's annual report is expected to disclose.

The report, due on Wednesday, will show that he had a £60,000 performance-related bonus, benefits of £22,000 and basic pay of £305,000. Average pay for BBC staff is believed to have risen less than 4 per cent.

Funding from the licence fee rose above £2 billion for the first time last year. Licence-payers will be able to air their views on the report for the first time at a meeting on Wednesday.

Cheats jailed

Peter Lawson, 58, former secretary of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, was jailed for 18 months for defrauding it of up to £300,000. His son Christopher, 28, a former CCPR development officer, got two years. Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, said at Southwark Crown Court: "It is a sad day when father and son appear in the dock."

Billie-Jo appeal

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins has launched an appeal against his conviction for her murder. Lawyers for Sion Jenkins, a former deputy headmaster, said they had lodged appeal papers at Lewes Crown Court — where he was sentenced last week. Jenkins, 40, was found guilty of bludgeoning the girl, 13, to death with a heavy metal strip spike.

Briton freed

Gerry Bowdren, 33, a holidaymaker from Norwich who was arrested amid spying allegations when he wandered into Egypt from Israel after becoming lost in the desert, was set free after an Egyptian court fined him £900 for entering the country illegally. Mr Bowdren, a nurse, vanished last Friday after going for a hike in the hills near Eilat.

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Pharmacy 'death warrant'

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government was last night accused of signing the death warrant for thousands of small pharmacies as MPs agreed to end a price-fixing agreement for over-the-counter medicines.

The Commons voted by a majority of 167 to scrap resale price maintenance (RPM), under which manufacturers and suppliers set a minimum price for medicines.

John Redwood, Shadow President of the Board of Trade, said that the move would force 3,000 community chemists to close because supermarkets would flood the market with cheap drugs.

The vote came during the report stage of the Competition Bill, which aims to bring Britain into line with Europe.

Mr Redwood said that community chemists provided a valuable public service, and he moved an amendment to exclude RPM from the provisions of the Bill.

"We aren't seeking to stifle choice or prevent people buying cheap medicines," he said. "But we think it's worth, in this rather unique area, preserving the RPM that has served communities so well in the past. Is the Government going to sign the death warrant for hundreds of small pharmacists around the country?"

RPM has already been referred to the Office of Fair Trading, which will later this year pass the matter on to the Restrictive Practices Court. If the court decides against the pharmacies, RPM could be banned next year.

Phyllis Starkey, Labour MP for Milton Keynes South West, said that big stores were just as capable of providing essential services.

Nigel Griffiths, the Competition Minister, argued that the Conservative Party had "for years" ignored the plight of small pharmacies.

Ferocious Hague lambasts cronies

Continued from page 1

Labour pollster had been proposed for a top job at the BBC. What was this which "even with my sinuses" he sneezed? It was the stench of cronyism. This was "Government For Sale". It was...

... candidates are invited to supply the missing word (eight letters, beginning with c and ending withism).

According to an interview in *Telegraph* Mr Hague puts many of his past problems down to a "post-nasal drip"; a graceless and impertinent way of thanking the majestic Sir Patrick Cormack, his Deputy Shadow House Leader. He can afford to be more generous now — for nothing could stop him yesterday.

Blair, at bay and having a thin time, stumbled into a universal condemnation of all the Observer's charges — and kept repeating in aggrieved tones that the opposition leader was making generalised accusations because he knew of no specific wrong.

Again Hague leapt to his feet. This was "a defining moment". It was now clear that Blair's crowd had "too many cronies and too few principles". Having now exhausted the six questions an opposition leader is allowed, exhausted the Prime Minister, exhausted all of us and exhausted the possibilities of arranging the word crony and its derivatives as many different sentences as can be devised in ten minutes (seven times), Mr Hague called it a day.

He had won. Everyone close to politics agrees he won. But 99 per cent of the voters are not close to politics. How did it look to them? I suspect that Blair's insistence that he could not answer unspecific allegations would have met sympathy. And (bored as we all are of hearing it) Blair's well worn cry that finger-wagging comes pretty rich from the Tories still strikes a chord.

And Hague did not quite have the last word. Near the end, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (C, Cotswold) rose to astonish us with the news that Mr Blair's weakness was... "cronies". The last word went to Nigel Evans (C, Ribble Valley). Mr Evans had diagnosed the problem.

It began with c. Get the message? This is Cronygate.

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I kill... ma... to i...
Suicide
Juror who wanted to find truth in the stars
Fan's 544,000

I killed no one, says man who stands to inherit fortune

Bitter millionaire forged a bizarre friendship with the son of his neighbour, reports Deborah Colcutt

TO THE outside world, John Hart Jr. regarded as a distant, antagonistic and sometimes arrogant man, seemed an unlikely friend for a frail pensioner. The elderly man, Lawrence Dabbs, was also considered to be difficult, a real-life Victor Meldrew who did not make friends easily.

However, the reality was quite different. Mr Hart, desperate to break away from his small-town background into the legal profession, and Mr Dabbs, a childless widower blighted by ill health, were to forge a bizarre and intense relationship.

In the beginning he was merely the son of the next-door-neighbour. After Mr Dabbs's death, Mr Hart, a beneficiary of his £2 million fortune, said yesterday: "I was like a son to him. He called me his adopted son. I was much more than a neighbour - he wanted me to change my name to Dabbs."

Their unlikely friendship began in 1991, two years after the death of Mr Dabbs's wife, Kitty. He was devastated by the loss and was still suffering from the effects of a shingles attack in 1982, which left the side of his face paralysed.

When he sought help at his local church group. There, he met Valerie Hart, who initially worked for him as a cleaner, but with her deep spiritual beliefs and trust in mystic powers also tried to comfort him.

His relationship with the Harts intensified, especially with John Jr, a mature law student whose part-time course at Sheffield he partly funded. Mr Dabbs owned a brick-making plant in Derbyshire but had inherited most of his wealth from his wife, who had in turn inherited it from her first husband.

"He was a little glib with people and bragged about the fact that he was millionaire. I ended up as his minder," Mr Hart said.

When his first wife, Diane, left him John Hart returned to live with his mother and father. Mr Dabbs, 74, started helping Mr Hart financially, eventually giving him and Helen, his fiancée, now second wife, £25,000 to set up a hairdressing business and to refurbish a flat above the salon in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, where the couple still live with their year-old son, James.

Mr Dabbs's health began to fail quickly and in the month before his death he was admitted to hospital three times after collapsing in a coma. According to Dr Richard Rogers, his GP, this had depressed him and some witnesses say he had spoken of taking his own life. "He had suffered from arthritis. I regularly prescribed him painkillers. He suffered from a number of conditions that left him a despondent, bitter man."

Doctors failed to pinpoint the problem but suspected he had either taken an overdose or suffered a stroke. He was first taken to hospital in a coma on August 25, returned unconscious on August 31, 1996, and, six hours after his discharge on September 13, he

Hart alerted them. Mr Dabbs had been released from hospital that day and driven home by Mr Hart. Police found him wearing pyjamas and dressing gown, seat-belted into the driver's seat of his Honda Civic.

A length of hosepipe, attached to the car exhaust, was wedged in the window by a thick blanket. There was no suicide note. A month later, after Mr Dabbs had been cremated, police began their initial inquiry after relatives

of Mr Dabbs, who had no children, wrote to them alleging that his will had been changed to benefit Mr Hart. The remainder of his estate, which has been frozen, was to have been divided between Mr Hart's parents, the Dabbs family and charitable causes.

Questioned about the death in court, Mr Hart denied any involvement. "I did not kill him, no way, and no way did I help him to commit suicide," he said.



Lawrence Dabbs illness left him despondent

was found dead. On the day of his death he was discharged from hospital and taken home by Mr Hart, who hours later raised the alarm when he heard a car engine running in Mr Dabbs's garage. Officers who forced their way in found the pensioner in pyjamas and dressing gown, belted into the front seat of his Honda Civic. A hose attached to the exhaust was poking through the window, secured by a blanket.

But the inquest heard there was no suicide note and forensic tests showed the hose had been attached by someone wearing gloves, although there were none on the body.

The inquest was told that the batteries had been removed from the smoke detector in the garage and one of two remote control instruments, which operated the garage door and was usually to be found on the car dashboard, was missing.

Within days of Mr Dabbs's death Mr Hart, who had power of attorney, had sold the Honda. Mr Dabbs's will, changed less than a month before his death, left £1.4 million before tax to Mr Hart.

Police discovered that Mr Hart had forged cheques totalling £5,000 during the pensioner's second stay in hospital. He admitted the forgery, but said Mr Dabbs had asked him to do so and the cash was to cover expenses for refurbishing the flat.

He told the inquest jury: "There were bills to be paid. There were no Ferraris, no gold Rolex watches, no holidays in the Bahamas. I signed them because Lawrie said he couldn't do it. He told me to practise his signature, he wanted me to sign things for him."

When detectives began a murder investigation a month after Mr Dabbs's death, Mr Hart was arrested but never charged. A charge of preventing the course of justice in connection with the drawing up of Mr Dabbs's testament was dropped.

Questioned about the death, Mr Hart angrily denied being a killer. He told the inquest: "I did everything for Lawrie. I did not kill him, no way, and no way did I help him to commit suicide. If there are any accusations against me then, for God's sake, say it."

"I'm fed-up with this blind innuendo, and I address this to the coroner and all these people sitting in here. I don't care what people say, whether they say a few pounds went missing here and there or that I killed him. I didn't kill Lawrie. I didn't kill anyone."

He also denied having anything to do with the comma incidents, saying: "You are trying to suggest that I drugged him, but that's crap. After all, I took him to the hospital and told them I thought it was an overdose. Would I have done that if I had given him the tablets myself?"

He told the jury the inheritance was Mr Dabbs's "pet subject", adding: "He once asked me to draw up his will, and I asked him if he had left me anything. When he told me I was the main beneficiary I told him I couldn't do it legally. We all knew I was going to get a hell of a lot of money."

When the inquest opened four weeks ago, the jury was asked by the coroner, Peter Astworth, to consider whether or not Mr Dabbs had committed suicide. He asked: "Could the will provide a motive for him to be killed, or was he putting his affairs in order before he took his own life?"

Three hunters spotted illegally digging for foxes were secretly filmed by a police plane.

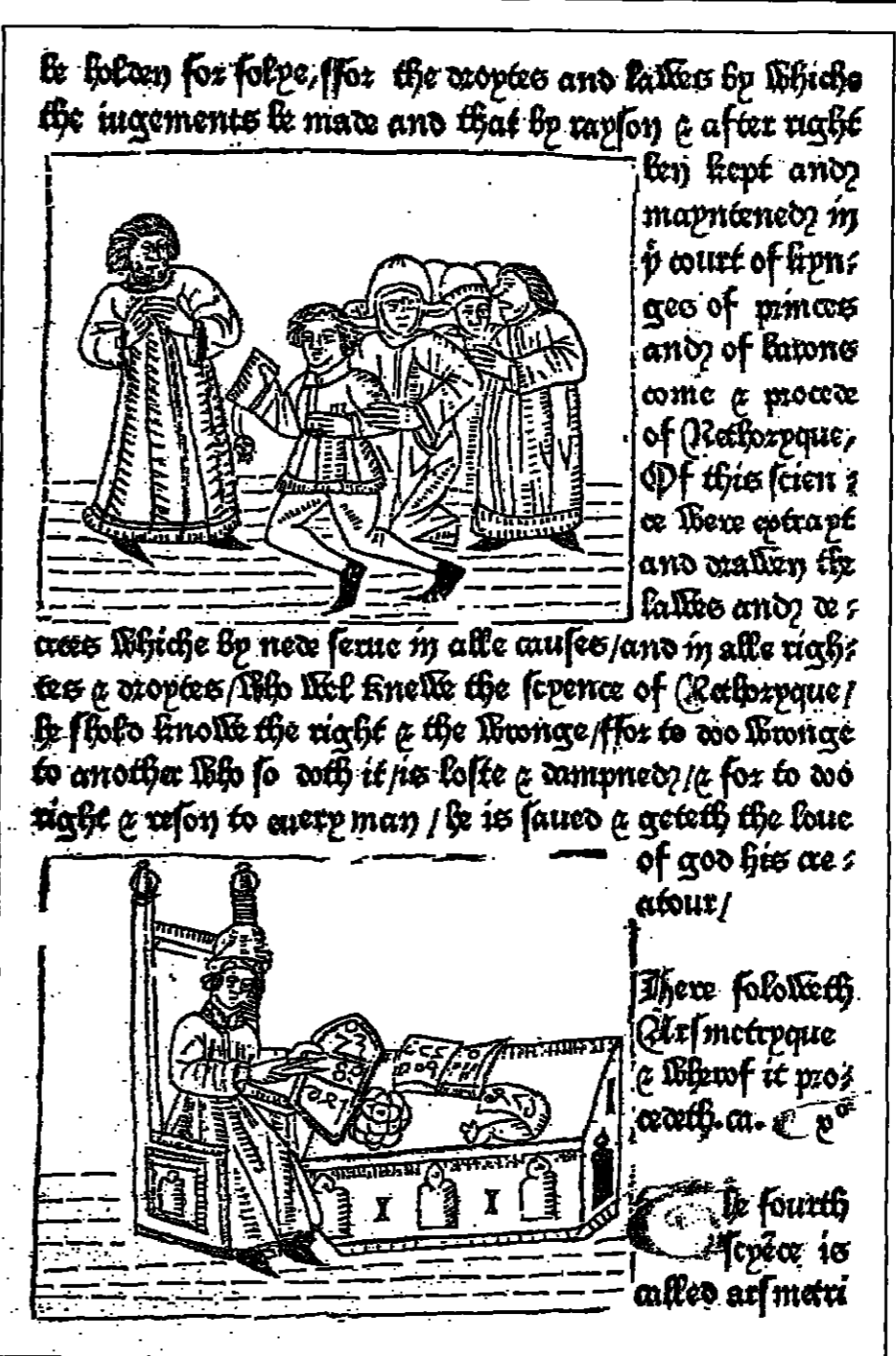
A pleasureboat passenger saw the men and their three lakeland terriers in a field at Ingleby Barwick, beside the River Tees, and alerted police by mobile phone.

The Cleveland constabulary's Islander aircraft took off from Teesside airport, three miles away, and filmed the unsuspecting hunters from 1,000ft up for 25 minutes on November 16.

After their arrest, a vet examined the terriers and found that one had muzzle injuries caused by a fox.

Stuart Banderla, 35, Darren Brannigan, 25, and Stephen McKenna, 38, were convicted of cruelty to an animal.

Banderla, of Stockton-on-Tees, and Brannigan, of Middlesbrough, were jailed for 60 days and banned from keeping an animal for three years. A warrant was issued for the arrest of McKenna, of Middlesbrough, who was reported to be working abroad.



The start of the Wife of Bath's tale in the Caxton edition of The Canterbury Tales

Chaucer fetches £4.6m

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A FIRST edition of Caxton's *Canterbury Tales* has been saved for the nation after being acquired by Sir Paul Getty.

The bidding at Christie's opened at £300,000 but within seconds had leapt past the £500,000 estimate. Moments later the figure was above £4 million.

Three bidders were competing, one by phone. But then a late entry by a representative of the dealers

Maggs Brothers secured the book for Sir Paul for £4.6 million. Books are among the great passions of the philanthropist, who lists bibliophilia as a recreation in *Who's Who*.

The book was produced in 1476 or 1477 by William Caxton at his workshop near Westminster Abbey. This is perhaps the finest copy in existence: only two or three pages, including the title sheet, are missing. It was

part of a multimillion-pound art collection that had been held at the 365-bedroom Wentworth Woodhouse near Rotherham in South Yorkshire.

Sir Paul, 65, lives in London and on a 2,500-acre estate at Wormsley in Buckinghamshire, where his book collection is housed. With an exhibition planned for next year there are hopes that the Caxton will be seen in public from time to time.

Burgled MP wants thieves flogged

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

A SHADOW Cabinet minister whose home was burgled says he would like the culprits to be flogged.

Liam Fox, the Tory spokesman on constitutional affairs, said that he would be "first in the queue" to administer a beating to thieves who broke into his home in the village of Bishop Sutton near Bristol last week and stole CDs and a video-recorder.

Dr Fox, MP for Woodspring and a former GP, told the *Western Daily Press*: "While it is not Conservative Party policy, I would like to see these people flogged for their crimes. People say: 'Who on earth would want to do that?' Well, I would be first in the queue."

"These people need a good whacking. I know just how so many people who have been burgled feel. I cannot believe that these criminals have come into my home and defiled it. We need to take tough action against these people."

Dr Fox, who has been linked with the pop star and former *Neighbours* actress Natalie Imbruglia, said that he was particularly upset about the theft of about 60 CDs from his 500-strong collection. "Many of them had been given to me by my friends and family in the music industry."

He insisted last night: "What I said was in no way designed to be anything to do with law and order policy, but was simply a personal reaction to being a victim of crime, which I am sure a lot of people will identify with."

A spokesman for the Conservatives said: "Obviously, flogging has no part in Tory party policy. This is a private reaction."



Fox, upset by the theft of about 60 CDs

'Suicide' was killed

Continued from page 1

available at inquest. Detective Superintendent Kevin Ashby said: "For the past two years detectives have worked hard to investigate Mr Dabbs's death. We will be submitting a further file to the Crown Prosecution Service based on new evidence which came to light during the inquest."

Mr Dabbs's body was found by police in the garage of his home on the evening of September 13, 1996, after Mr

Hart alerted them. Mr Dabbs had been released from hospital that day and driven home by Mr Hart. Police found him wearing pyjamas and dressing gown, seat-belted into the driver's seat of his Honda Civic.

A length of hosepipe, attached to the car exhaust, was wedged in the window by a thick blanket. There was no suicide note. A month later, after Mr Dabbs had been cremated, police began their initial inquiry after relatives

of Mr Dabbs, who had no children, wrote to them alleging that his will had been changed to benefit Mr Hart. The remainder of his estate, which has been frozen, was to have been divided between Mr Hart's parents, the Dabbs family and charitable causes.

Questioned about the death in court, Mr Hart denied any involvement. "I did not kill him, no way, and no way did I help him to commit suicide," he said.

Juror who wanted to find truth in the stars

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN was removed from a jury after asking the judge for the defendant's birth date in order to draw up a star chart.

Judge Esmond Faulks, sitting at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, received a note from the juror seeking the information. The man appeared puzzled when he was removed. A court official said: "He stood his ground and asked why. He seemed genuinely surprised he was being removed. He had been warned by the judge, as all jurors are, to try the defendants only on the evidence put before them in court."

After he had gone, the 11 remaining members of the jury cleared Trevor Lynch, 23, from Prudhoe, Northumberland, of grievous bodily harm and violent disorder. His mother, Joyce, said: "We just couldn't believe it when this juror asked for his date of birth. It has nothing to do with the stars whether a person is guilty or innocent. I'm not sure Trevor knows his star sign."

Sir Alf happy with the NHS

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE wife of Sir Alf Ramsey declined an offer yesterday of private health treatment for the former England manager, who is recovering from a stroke.

The Football Association and Bobby Robson said that they were prepared to meet the cost. The offer was made after Pat Gobold, Sir Alf's former secretary, complained that he was not receiving proper care while on an NHS ward at Ipswich Hospital. Sir Alf, 78, has been there since June 9.

Yesterday Lady Ramsey said that she was satisfied that everything possible was being done for her husband. In a statement she said: "Sir Alf is getting the care he needs. I am satisfied of that and I have plenty of opportunity to discuss his recovery with all the staff involved. I have complete confidence in his consultant and the staff who are involved in helping his recovery and would not consider alternative treatment from any source."

Mr Robson, a neighbour of Sir Alf, said that he made his offer after receiving a telephone call from Ms Gobold. "She was in tears. She was



Sir Alf is said to be making progress

Alf's secretary for eight years and mine for 17 years and still has great affection for him. She went to see him in a public ward and they had to find him because he was wandering around not knowing where he was because of his illness."

He said that the plight of Sir Alf, the only England manager to have won the World Cup, was a "crying shame". A spokesman for Ipswich Hospital said: "It is a busy ward but the medical, nursing and therapy staff are able to give Sir Alf the attention he needs and his care plan is reviewed daily. He is comfortable and is making progress in his recovery."

Sky police filmed illegal dig for foxes

THREE hunters spotted illegally digging for foxes were secretly filmed by a police plane.

A pleasureboat passenger saw the men and their three lakeland terriers in a field at Ingleby Barwick, beside the River Tees, and alerted police by mobile phone.

The Cleveland constabulary's Islander aircraft took off from Teesside airport, three miles away, and filmed the unsuspecting hunters from 1,000ft up for 25 minutes on November 16.

After their arrest, a vet examined the terriers and found that one had muzzle injuries caused by a fox.

Stuart Banderla, 35, Darren Brannigan, 25, and Stephen McKenna, 38, were convicted of cruelty to an animal.

Banderla, of Stockton-on-Tees, and Brannigan, of Middlesbrough, were jailed for 60 days and banned from keeping an animal for three years. A warrant was issued for the arrest of McKenna, of Middlesbrough, who was reported to be working abroad.

Fan's 544,000 reasons to cheer Brazil



BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH

A FLORIST who put a double bet on Arsenal winning the Premiership and Brazil winning the World Cup could be half a million pounds richer on Sunday.

Four years after landing £395,000 on the 1994 titles, thanks to the efforts of Manchester United and Brazil, Adrian Fitzpatrick stands to get another £544,000 if

Brazil lift the World Cup. At the beginning of the football season last August, he placed an £18,000 double bet, both at 9/2, on Arsenal and Brazil winning the two titles.

Arsenal won the FA Cup Premiership in May. But even if Brazil lose, he will still make £55,000. He has bet £5,000 on France and Croatia, the semi-finalists. Mr Fitzpatrick, 41, of Solihull, West Midlands, said: "I am not the

biggest punter in the world or anything. I am someone who sits down and looks at the form of the teams over the last four years.

"Four years ago, I decided to have a big bet on the football and won a lot of money. I have done the same this year and cannot lose."

"Even if Brazil get beaten, the least I can win is £55,000 but obviously I would prefer the half a million."

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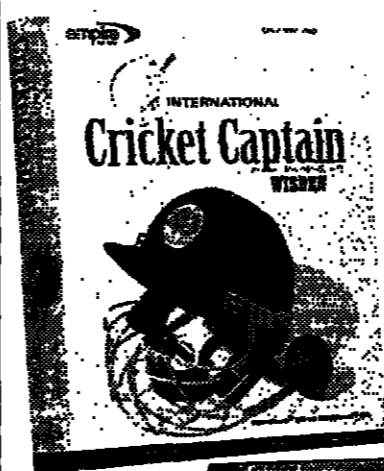
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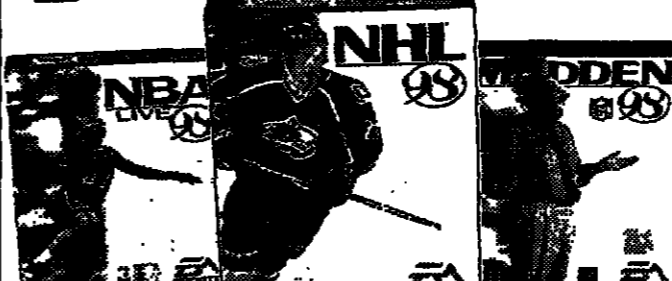
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TELFORD OPENING SOON

Do 'bux to be
Ian Murray

Viagra

Criticism over drug adviser's second job

No-smok
Nigel Hawkes

حکومت الاصل

Doctors want 'buxom wench' to be role model

Ian Murray reports from the BMA conference

DOCTORS are calling for more images of "buxom wenches" in the media after fears that waif-like models may be contributing to an increase in anorexia.

"Constant images of very thin models encourage those girls with a predisposition for eating disorders," Muriel Broome, a consultant from West Berkshire, told the British Medical Association's annual conference in Cardiff yesterday.

"I call on the media to be more responsible and show more buxom wenches."

Vivienne Nathanson, head of research, said that there was clear evidence that an increasing number of teenage boys as well as girls were becoming anorexic because they made role models of the thin people they saw on the screen or in newspapers and magazines.

"We have to talk to the advertising industry and to television and film producers about the way they cast stars as role models and tell them what this is doing to young people.

"There are a whole variety of human shapes and forms yet they go in for one particular type which reinforces the concept of the ultra-thin being desirable or successful. The waif-like has been popular for many years and patients with



Bogle blamed media images for girl's anorexia

images of so-called heroin chic in fashion magazines caused anger in Britain and the US.

Dr Nathanson added: "It is about showing a variety of different forms. We don't want them to be going on one body shape."

Ian Bogle, former chairman of the BMA's GP committee and a key contender to take over the leadership of the BMA council, described his personal experience of the condition in support of the motion.

His daughter's weight had dropped from 9st to 5st after she had developed anorexia in her early twenties.

The Liverpool GP said: "I can tell you it is a stark fact that the pursuit of the waif-like figure, the perception that only slimness is attractive and desirable as portrayed in many forms in the media, is a major contributory factor in young people developing this disease."

"The devastating effects on the sufferer as their weight plummets, the depression associated with the loss of self-esteem and the black despair will be well understood by you, a medical audience."

"What hopefully most of you won't have experienced is the consequences in the family — disbelief, helplessness and guilt."

"These are not transient effects. In our case it lasted

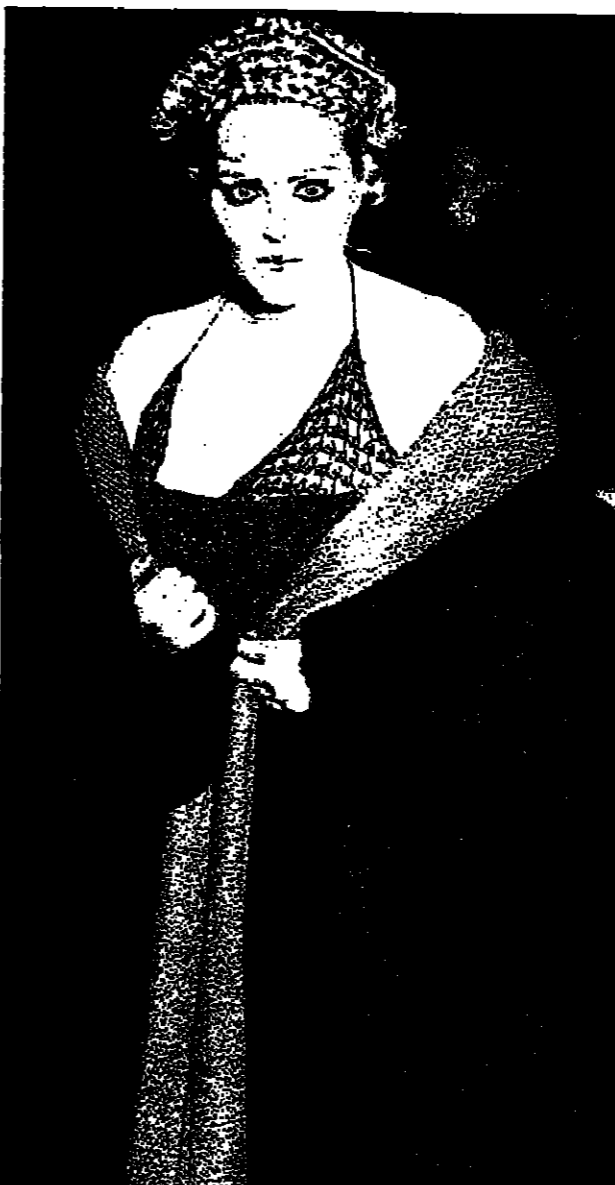
anorexia tell their psychiatrists this is the image they are seeking.

"They develop a false body image as part of their medical condition. They stop eating and become much thinner and more waif-like yet they still see themselves as being heavier. Being too thin is more acutely dangerous than being acutely overweight and we will collect the evidence to prove to the media the harm they are doing."

The BMA intends writing to editors, film producers and casting directors asking for their co-operation. The association will be collating statistics to back its case. Last year



Jodie Kidd, the type of stick-thin model that doctors would like replaced by the fuller figure of Sophie Dahl



some five years. But we got lucky: a family intact, even strengthened, the sufferer now happy and apparently cured. Others have not been so lucky: suicides, lifetime recriminations and divorces are not rare."

Dr Bogle said the condition, which affected the family for

ten years, put the greatest test of his marriage in 37 years. He said: "You wake up in the morning and the first thing you think about is the problem and it is the last thing you think about at night."

"In the most severe cases, the idea of suicide is never far away. The low point is seeing

someone so depressed that that is on the agenda."

He added: "Turning the corner was a long slow process. It was when all the avenues for blame had been looked at and we were content that we actually weren't to blame. At the time I was in my mid-40s, so I had a lot of time

to go back and see what I had done wrong."

Sir Alexander Macara, chairman of the BMA, called for unanimous support. "This is a subject in which we take every right to feel emotional," he said. "We should vote on this with our heads and with our hearts."

Benefits of helmets may not add up

HEAD injuries to cyclists could be cut by two thirds if helmets were made compulsory, the BMA was told yesterday. But some doctors fear that the headgear could cause more harm than good by discouraging people from the healthy exercise of cycling.

The conference voted to collect more evidence before deciding whether to press the Government for legislation on cycle helmets.

Geoffrey Horton, from Argyll, said that in Australia there had been a 63 per cent fall in head injuries among cyclists since helmets had been made compulsory and an 86 per cent fall in the number of cyclists knocked unconscious in accidents.

He said that there had been no reduction in the number of motorists since seatbelts were introduced or in the number of motorcyclists since crash helmets were made compulsory.

But Stephen Watkins, a public health consultant, said: "In Australia, after the introduction of compulsory use, the amount of cycling fell considerably and the amount of people taking it up fell."

Vivienne Nathanson, the BMA's head of research, suggested that people disliked cycle helmets because they were expensive and unfashionable. Children were reluctant to wear guards of any sort and would need new helmets regularly as they grew, she added.

"It is a balance of the health-promoting effects of cycling and the risks of falling off a bike and getting a head injury," Dr Nathanson said.

Viagra's maker begins trials on women

THOUSANDS of women will soon be taking the virility drug Viagra, according to a leading specialist. Clinical trials are proving so successful that it is likely to be widely used by women years before it is licensed, Derek Machin, a Liverpool urologist, said.

Pfizer, the drug's manufacturer, has started trials in Europe with 100 women in Britain using Viagra. The first trials are likely to end in the new year but it is unlikely to be licensed for treatment of female sexual dysfunction for another six years. However, the process of licensing it for use by men is almost complete and it is expected to be available on prescrip-

tion for them from September. The Government has said it would be available on the NHS for those who clinically needed it. The pills cost £6 each, so the cost to the NHS for men alone could reach £1 billion. Doctors believe that women who would benefit from the drug will be able to get their partner to obtain a prescription for it, thus increasing the cost to the NHS.

"Once it is available it will inevitably be used by both sexes," Dr Machin said. "Word of mouth is the best recommendation and if it is as good as we hear it is, demand will increase exponentially."

He said the drug could help women

who could not achieve orgasms "and this will open up discussions on the whole question of female sexual dysfunction". There were no accurate figures for the numbers who might benefit from the drug because research was ethically difficult and most women did not seek treatment.

Estimates for the number of impotent men who could benefit from the drug vary from between one in six to one in twenty. Most specialists estimate that at least one in ten is affected. "I don't see why it would not be as big a problem among women as among men," Dr Machin said. "I don't see any reason why if the drug has a

significant beneficial effect its use would not spread rapidly among them. It is difficult to control something if it is working well.

"It is just impossible to release a drug like Viagra and for it not to be used by people who might benefit from it. Licensed or not, somehow they will get it and take it."

The annual meeting of the British Medical Association in Cardiff has urged the Government to review the way in which expensive new drugs such as Viagra are introduced. The NHS spends £5.5 billion on drugs each year but the cost of Viagra could take up more than a fifth of the budget.

Job appeal to the UN

THE case of a doctor who has been suspended for four years while awaiting the outcome of an NHS inquiry is being raised with the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Bernard Charnley, 45, a consultant pathologist at the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, is alleged to have reported inaccurately the results of cervical screening tests. He is still drawing his £60,000-a-year pay.

"Nothing has been proven against me and yet I am

locked out of my hospital and unable to work," he said yesterday. "I have been denied the basic human right of being presumed innocent until I am found guilty."

His case was raised at the BMA meeting when delegates unanimously deplored National Health Service disciplinary procedures. A resolution, said that suspensions contravened the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Peter Tomlin, secretary of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists, which helps suspended doctors, said that he had asked the UN Commission to intervene because the case was dragging on seemingly endlessly.

There were 15 other such cases. Over the past 11 years, there had been 157 suspensions which had cost the NHS £50 million, he said. In cases that had been settled, only one in six of the doctors had been found guilty of the allegations against them.

Criticism over drug adviser's second job

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE Government's drugs adviser was criticised last night for taking a second job as a part-time director with a £300 million property company.

Keith Hellawell, who earns £102,000 a year as drugs co-ordinator, is joining Evans of Leeds as a non-executive director. The former Chief Constable of West Yorkshire will get £15,750 plus travel expenses for 12 days' work a year.

John Bell, managing director of the company, said that Mr Hellawell was a widely respected figure in Yorkshire and the North East. "Non-executive directors bring their general experience to the boardroom. They are there to assist the executive directors."

Mr Hellawell would be expected to attend six board meetings and work another six days during the year.

The Cabinet Office said that the directorship was not considered incompatible with Mr Hellawell's drugs work.

However, James Clappison, a Shadow Home Affairs spokesman, said the job of drugs adviser needed full-time commitment, adding: "I question whether this is a distraction."

Advert shows result of ignoring rear belt

By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

FILM showing a schoolboy causing his mother's death in a car crash was screened on television last night in the latest government campaign to cut road deaths.

The 45-second dramatisation, to be repeated after some of television's most popular programmes, showed the boy being catapulted forward from a car's rear seat into the back of his mother, who is shown to die instantly.

The powerful sequence aimed at persuading rear-seat passengers to wear seatbelts, is accompanied by the words: "Like most victims, Julie knew her killer. It was her son who was sitting behind her without a seatbelt. After crushing her to death he sat back down."

Ministers admit that the £750,000 campaign will shock many viewers but insist that the tough message is vital in changing the habits of most back-seat passengers, who fail to wear safety belts. A roadside poster campaign sends out equally dramatic messages. One poster says: "David didn't mean to kill his mother. But he couldn't stop himself."

Ministers have ordered that the television advertisements should not be shown when children's programmes are being screened, although they will be shown before the 9pm watershed.

Baroness Hayman, the Road Safety Minister, defended the use of the chilling

images. "It's a graphic campaign and some people will find it shocking. But we thought it was absolutely justified, because research shows that, although people know wearing a seatbelt in the back is a legal requirement and it's safer, they are ignoring the responsibility they have to others."

"We felt the best way to show the harsh reality was to demonstrate exactly what happens in a collision."

Even at low speeds, failure to wear a belt could have fatal consequences. Lady Hayman added. Although 92 per cent of adult passengers wear safety belts in front seats, only 48 per cent of rear-seat passengers comply with the law.

Drivers are responsible for ensuring that children aged under 14 wear safety belts, but otherwise it is the duty of the individual to comply with the law.

Passengers aged between 15 and 29 are the most likely to ignore the rear seatbelt law, with only four in ten in the age group "belting-up". It is estimated that 140 lives a year are saved by the wearing of rear seatbelts. Full compliance is thought likely to save a further 120 lives, including those of 40 front-seat passengers killed by those sitting in back seats.



A crash test at the Transport Research Laboratory

No-smoking day 'is dangerous'

Nigel Hawkes on the side-effects of widespread nicotine withdrawal

WORKPLACES become more dangerous on no-smoking day, say researchers who analysed ten years of official statistics on non-fatal accidents.

Andrew Walters, of the National Addiction Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, and Martin Jarvis and Stephen Sutton of University College London, investigated the issue because it is known that smokers' mood and mental performance deteriorate within a few hours of giving up.

In Nature, they compare the daily accident count from the Health and

Safety Executive. Typically, accidents are highest on Mondays and decline steadily during the week but the week containing no-smoking day — on a Wednesday in March — is exceptional.

The day itself, averaged over ten years, shows an increase in accidents which, while hardly dramatic, is statistically significant. In the week before, the Wednesday produces an average of 553 accidents; the week after, the figure is 519. But on no-smoking day the figure is 576.

That difference is far less than the day-of-the-week effect, as Mondays

typically clock up 650-690 accidents, while Fridays are below 500.

The researchers emphasise that people should not be discouraged from trying to give up and suggest a wider use of nicotine patches or gum. They suggest that similar studies be made in other countries and road-crash figures be examined.

Black people absorb more nicotine when they smoke, according to two papers in the Journal of the American Medical Association. They suffer more from lung cancer and find it harder to give up smoking.



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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including a call number: CALL ON 0800 8... and other illegible text.

Local hero ... or villain of the peace?

Martin Fletcher meets the former terrorist who claims to speak for the Catholics of Garvaghy Road

THE man with the power to prevent the disaster facing Northern Ireland ruled out compromise in the Drumcree stalemate yesterday.

Brendan McKenna, leader of the Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition, said: "We have the moral high ground. Are you suggesting that the people in this community who have the law on their side give in to the bully boys and cudgel carriers?"

Mr McKenna was standing outside the unappealing community centre that serves as his bunker on the edge of Portadown. The building, from which the media are barred, is ringed by high steel railings with spiked tops.

It sits in the heart of what for the past five days has been the most heavily protected enclave in the United Kingdom, with the military blocking every access road from the hundreds of Orangemen camped outside. But even here a bunch of heavies hover in the background as Mr McKenna holds forth, and with good reason.

To his supporters, the slightly built 40-year-old is the courageous champion of an oppressed Catholic minority for whom the Orange Order's annual parade down the Garvaghy Road is the ultimate affirmation of their second-class status. To Orange-

men, Unionists and many others he is the villain of the unfolding drama, a former terrorist who has whipped up hostility to a harmless tradition as part of a broader republican plot to bring Northern Ireland to its knees.

Mr McKenna has rejected entreaties by Tony Blair's chief of staff that he accept a restricted parade. He has spurned efforts by an emissary of David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, to reach an accommodation.

Even Seamus Mallon, the Deputy First Minister and prominent nationalist, was mobbed by people shouting "No sell-out" as he left a meeting with Mr McKenna and other residents' coalition members on Tuesday night.

A security source said: "Mr McKenna has no intention of letting any kind of parade go down Garvaghy Road, even on its knees. His influence in this is wholly malign. He doesn't want a compromise. A compromise would finish him. His fame rests on Drumcree."

Mr McKenna, who once called his single-mindedness his greatest strength, is married with four children and was raised near by in Lurgan. In 1982, aged 24, he was jailed for six years for his involvement in an attempted IRA bombing of Portadown's British Legion hall, a target partic-



Brendan McKenna yesterday: "Are you suggesting we give in to the bully boys and cudgel carriers?"

ularly dear to the Orange Order. He describes himself as a community activist and has been organising opposition to the Drumcree parade since at least 1995. Last year he was elected to Craigavon council with 1,493 votes, a result with which he shields himself from the frequent charge that he is far more

militant than those he purports to represent. Another common charge, which he dismisses as "Unionist propaganda" and "absolute rubbish", is that he supports the 32-County Sovereignty Committee, the extreme republican splinter group that opposes the peace process. Mr McKenna says the Garvaghy

Road area is a ghetto deliberately created for Portadown's Catholics by the town's Protestant majority and "one of the most depressed areas in the north". He claims its residents were tricked into letting the Drumcree parade pass in 1985 on the understanding that their consent would be required in future years. He

insists that there can be no further accommodation unless the Orangemen drop their refusal to negotiate directly with him and his coalition colleagues, thereby acknowledging their equal status. He gained the legal weapon he needed with the Parade Commission's decision last week to reroute the Drumcree

parade and there is no way that he will relinquish it, however grave the consequences. This Sunday is the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne and the biggest day in the Orange Order's calendar.

Tens of thousands of Orangemen are expected to descend on Drumcree, demanding their right to march, and senior Unionists fear a conflagration that will render Northern Ireland ungovernable. "People are really scared. We are staring down that great abyss. We are shaping up for a doomsday situation," an official close to Mr Trimble said.

Mr McKenna is unperturbed. Northern Ireland's 30,000-strong security forces, "applied correctly, should be able to prevent large numbers of Orangemen coming to Portadown", he said.

That is the paradox of the situation. A former terrorist dedicated to Northern Ireland's abolition is relying on the British troops he once fought for protection against the Queen's most loyal subjects.

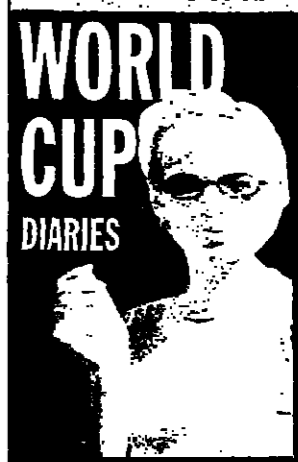
Mo Mowlam said last night that she would reconsider the early release of terrorist prisoners if loyalist paramilitaries connected to the Good Friday agreement were involved in the current violence. The Northern Ireland Secretary said she had no confirmation of paramilitary involvement but acknowledged that only terrorist groups had access to the guns and bombs used in the disturbances.

Letters, page 23

TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES



TALKING Robert Redford in the director's saddle



WORLD CUPS DIARIES ZOE BALL KEITH ALLEN IAN MCCULLOCH CERYL MATHEWS

FREE WITH THE SATURDAY TIMES

Ashworth chief quits after revolt

By MARK HENDERSON

THE chief executive appointed to a secure hospital at the centre of a paedophilia and pornography scandal resigned yesterday after a rebellion by senior doctors.

Hilary Hodge will leave Ashworth Special Hospital in Maghull, Merseyside, where patients include the Moors murderer Ian Brady, after less than a year in charge. Fifteen consultant psychiatrists had expressed "grave concerns" over her management style and threatened to quit if she did not.

Dame Fiona Caldicott, a former president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists called in to arbitrate, found that the relationship between Dr Hodge and the consultants had "irretrievably broken down", and recommended that she stand aside.

Dr Hodge, 51, a former dentist, was appointed last September to replace Janice Miles, who resigned as chief executive after allegations of paedophile activity, drug

abuse, financial irregularities and pornography rings.

The claims by Stephen Daggett, a patient who absconded on a shopping trip to Liverpool to draw attention to failings at Ashworth, led to a public inquiry, chaired by Peter Fallon, QC, which heard its final evidence earlier this week and will report to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, later in the year.

Hospital psychiatrists had accused Dr Hodge of meddling in clinical affairs and failing properly to evaluate staff.

In May, 16 Ashworth nurses were found to have illegally failed to register with their statutory body, and a nurse who worked at the hospital for three years despite a conviction for possessing indecent photographs of a child was struck off the medical register. It was also discovered that the hospital had been detaining sectioned patients illegally, because of errors in the appointment of ward managers.

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Reynolds wins libel retrial in 1p damages case

BY JOANNA BAILE

ALBERT REYNOLDS, the former Irish Prime Minister, yesterday won the right to a retrial of his libel case after Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, found there were "misdirections" by the judge who had awarded him just 1p damages.

Mr Reynolds, who was accused by *The Sunday Times* of misleading the Irish Parliament and lying to his Labour colleagues, had claimed that Mr Justice French confused the jury in his two-day "unstructured" summing up of the evidence.

Lord Bingham, sitting at the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Robert Walker, ruled that there was "considerable force" in Mr Reynolds's criticism of Mr Justice French and that he had not received a fair trial. They added: "The summing up was indeed long and the judge did little to relate the evidence to the specific issues. It cannot have been an easy direction to assimilate. We have considerable sympathy with the jury in their task of seeking to analyse large tracts of undigested material."

Mr Justice French, who retired in April last year aged 71, had undergone a triple heart bypass operation shortly before presiding over the trial



Reynolds: not going to let claims go unchallenged

in November 1996. A legal source said yesterday: "He was still recovering from the operation and did not have the concentration or powers of recall that he once had. No one was surprised when he retired a few months later."

After a 24-day case at the High Court, the jury found that Mr Reynolds was libelled but ruled he was not entitled to any damages. The judge later awarded him one penny. That left the former premier facing £1 million in legal costs because *The Sunday Times* had already paid £5,005 into court to settle the dispute.

The Appeal Court ruled yesterday that costs would be decided after the outcome of a retrial. Mr Reynolds, 66, said he was "delighted". He added:

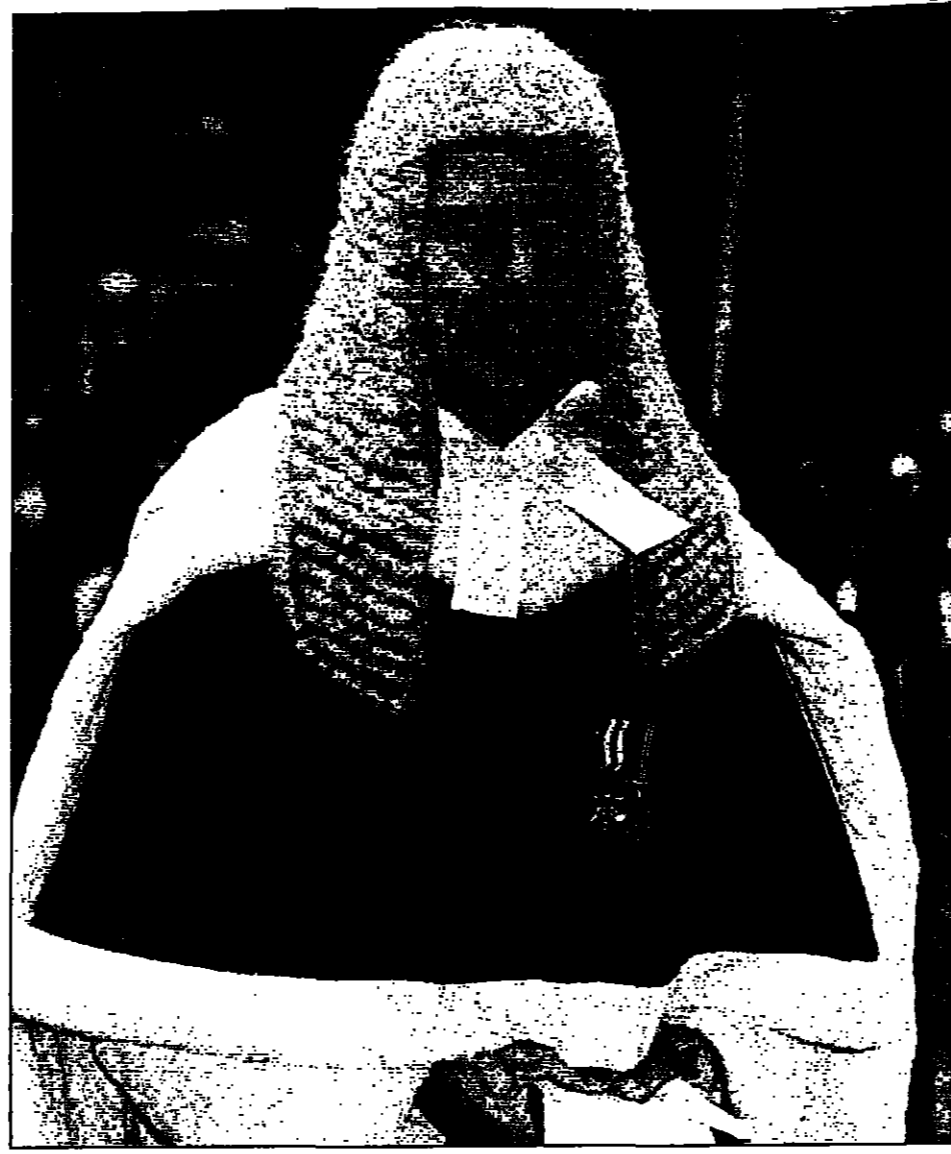
"I came to London in search of truth and justice and the Appeal Court today quite clearly said that I didn't get a fair trial. I felt it was a travesty of justice but I was always a strong believer that truth will out."

"My view is the office of Taoiseach was entitled to be protected against untrue allegations. I was not going to let it go unchallenged — others might have."

Lord Bingham said Mr Justice French's summing up to the jury at times "served to confuse" them and "may well have been misleading". The trial judge did not "fairly reflect" Mr Reynolds's evidence and, in one passage, Mr Justice French "unwittingly misrepresented" it.

Lord Bingham agreed with Mr Reynolds that the judge's summing up over damages was "inadequate" in that the jury did not fully understand that an award was made to compensate the plaintiff's feelings and as a vindication of his reputation.

The Appeal Court said it was with "very great regret" that it had found that the cumulative effects of the misdirections had denied Mr Reynolds a fair trial and it was therefore necessary to set aside the verdict, finding and judgment of the High Court and order a new trial. The



Mr Justice French: his summing up to the jury at times "may have been misleading"

judges refused *The Sunday Times* leave to appeal to the House of Lords but the newspaper is considering going directly to the Lords to argue that the article was covered by qualified privilege — a public interest defence.

An appeal by five policemen who claimed that Mr Justice

French misdirected the jury when they lost a £750,000 High Court libel action against *The Guardian* was dismissed at the same Appeal Court hearing. The five, all at Stoke Newington police station, said the newspaper linked them to an investigation into corruption, which

was denied by *The Guardian*. Another appeal by one of the five, Reynold Bennett, against an order made by Mr Justice French in connection with his libel action against the *News of the World* was partially successful.

Law report, page 33

Incompetent judges do not get the sack

Frances Gibb on unease at a system relying on the bench to regulate itself

MR JUSTICE FRENCH, who retired in April last year, will not be held to account for the retrial. Nor, if he was sullied on the bench, could he be sacked for it. Judges enjoy the privilege of being almost entirely unaccountable for poor work.

They can be pulled up for inappropriate comments by the head of their High Court division or presiding judge of circuit, or for poor management such as delivering judgments late. If they are regularly found to be "getting it wrong" they might be taken off the more complex cases.

But it needs a judicial failing of huge proportions, as happened in February after Court of Appeal judges attacked Mr Justice Harman's "intolerable" delay in deciding a case, for a departure to result.

Even in that case, the judge was not sacked. Mr Justice Harman announced that he intended to resign, although the strength of criticism from the Court of Appeal effectively left him with no option.

Judges enjoy this immunity from the normal hazards of employment because of their constitutional position. Security of tenure underpins judicial independence and ensures that judges can rule against ministers or governments without an eye to promotion. High Court judges can be

removed from office only by the Queen after a vote by both Houses of Parliament and none ever has. Circuit judges can be dismissed for incapacity or misbehaviour by the Lord Chancellor.

That hardly ever happens. Only one, Judge Bruce Campbell, has been sacked this century, after pleading guilty to a smuggling offence.

Anything short of such a flagrant misdemeanour still has to rely on the informal network of judges themselves to watch their colleagues and for those colleagues in turn to respond appropriately if told gently they are not up to it. Self-regulation is limited, however, and critics argue that judges could do more. Senior judges can be reluctant to have a word with their colleagues because of the unspoken principle that each judge is independent.

When the late Lord Widgery became ill while Lord Chief Justice he held on to his post long after fellow judges privately felt he should. But they protected his position, in what has been called a conspiracy of silence.

Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor and head of the Chancery Division, has questioned how a more formal system of performance-monitoring could work in practice.

Chance find ends decades of doubt over IRA victim

BY AUDREY MAGEE

THE chance discovery of a body in a shallow grave has solved the 78-year mystery of a teacher murdered by the IRA. Pdraig Joyce, a respected school principal, went missing from his Galway home in 1920. He was tried and sentenced to death by an IRA kangaroo court for being an informer.

But, although he was thought to have been killed, his fate was not certain until a walker's stick struck a wooden casket 2ft below the surface of a bog near Barna, Galway.

Police dug up the badly decayed casket and yesterday the remains were identified as those of Joyce, who was about 60 when he died and married with four children.

Unlike most of his compatriots, Joyce supported the Black and Tans — the police reserve recruited to combat the IRA — and the continuation of British rule in Ireland. He wrote to

the military and police in Galway and to officials in London giving the names and whereabouts of IRA men. But his five letters, personally signed, were intercepted by an IRA member working in Galway post office who passed them to his IRA superiors.

Pdraig O Laoi, a Roman Catholic priest and Galway historian, said: "The IRA men were quite taken aback because Joyce was a gentle person and very highly respected as a principal in national school circles."

At 11pm on October 12, 1920, IRA men called at his house, ordered Joyce to dress and took him to a remote bog outside Barna. In front of a Catholic priest they tried him, murdered him and buried the body in a wooden box with his watch and claddagh ring.

"He was missing and could have been in South Africa for all people knew about his

whereabouts," said Father O Laoi, author of *Father Griffin*, a book about the fight for Irish independence in Galway.

Police said that the body was found accidentally last Thursday and was not related to recent reports that the IRA intended to disclose the secret graves of people killed by the paramilitaries over the past 30 years. The badly decomposed body produced no clear indication of how Joyce was murdered, despite extensive forensic tests.

"I do not know if it will ever be properly confirmed as Joyce's body because it is in a bad way and there are no records from the era. But we can safely assume it is him," Superintendent Michael Corley said.

Police yesterday traced Joyce's surviving relatives, who are expected to arrange a proper burial for him.

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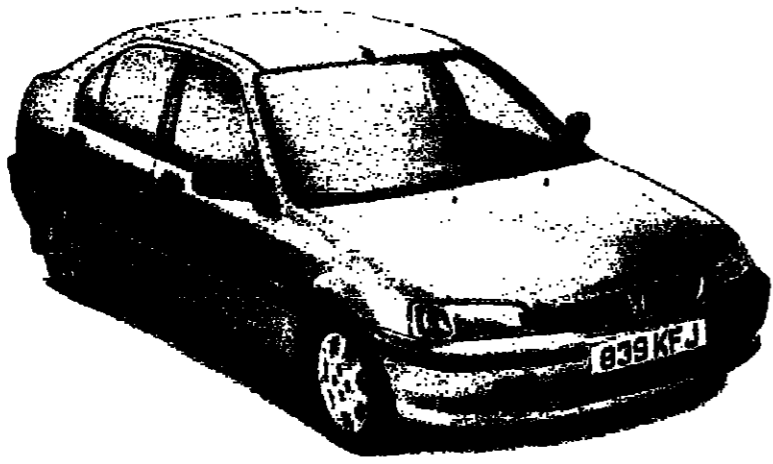


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Robertson's blueprint is more sensible than truly radical

THE favourite word used by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, in referring to his review of Britain's military capabilities, has been "radical".

The strategic defence review has taken 12 months, and in some respects it has been radical. It has been more open and all-embracing than any previous review. It has also lacked the inter-service acrimony that has been a feature of so many past reviews, most notably in 1961 when Sir John Nott was Defence Secretary.

However, the truly radical pro-

posals made during the review have largely been shelved, mainly because Mr Robertson was anxious to avoid any measures that might drive young men and women out of the Forces into civilian jobs. So, although there are cuts in equipment, there are no reductions in manpower and, in the case of the Army, another 3,300 soldiers are to be recruited.

Under the reviews of the previous Conservative Government — *Options for Change* in 1990 and *Frontline First* in 1994 — manpower was cut by about 30 per cent.

That was felt to be necessary because of the end of the Cold War and the subsequent dramatic change in the international security environment.

These cuts were genuinely radical — too radical in some respects, because when it became clear that the Armed Forces would be in demand in some of the most unstable parts of the world, the Services complained that there were glaring gaps in capabilities,

particularly in units such as the Royal Engineers, the Royal Signals and the Royal Logistic Corps.

Mr Robertson's review is principally about reorganisation and developing more rapidly deployable forces. That is more sensible than radical. The most extreme proposals discussed, including scrapping tanks altogether, cutting the Territorial Army to 9,000 and merging the RAF and Army Air Corps, were swiftly rejected. In their place have emerged a series of proposals that should make it possible for the three Services to

react to events in the future without having to cobble together an ad hoc formation.

The most important achievement for the Defence Secretary is that he has succeeded in persuading all his colleagues in the Government, including Gordon Brown, to back his blueprint for the Services. The package that was sent to Cabinet at the end of March has remained untouched.

However, as the White Paper makes clear, there is a downside. By playing the Treasury at its own game — asking awkward ques-

tions about everything — Mr Robertson has found ways of saving nearly £1 billion from the defence budget over the next three years.

The impact of cutting the budget in real terms by £915 million a year by 2001-2002 will be cushioned only if Mr Robertson succeeds in selling off all the unwanted assets that have caused problems for all his predecessors.

The Ministry of Defence is the biggest landowner in Britain after the Forestry Commission but most of its land is needed for training.

The major properties in the defence estate that are no longer needed are also often difficult to sell, either because they are contaminated from decades of military use, or they are too large for commercial exploitation. Many of the properties it owns are also of historic interest and cannot be sold.

Mr Robertson is confident that he can sell the surplus assets. But so were his predecessors.

MICHAEL EVANS

SIMON WALKER

Gains and losses for all sides in Services shake-up

MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

A MIXED bag of new equipment proposals, cuts in ships and other weapon systems and a surprising lifting of the axe hanging over some of the previous Government's procurement plans has emerged from the long-awaited White Paper on defence.

As predicted, the number of frigates is to be cut from 35 to 32, nuclear fleet submarines from 12 to 10 and mine hunters from 25 to 22. The RAF will also lose 36 frontline aircraft. However, the Army will get its

full complement of 380 Challenger 2 tanks, although some will be held in storage at strategic ports.

The number of tank regiments will be cut from eight, each with 50 Challenger 1s, to six, each with 58 of the new Challenger 2s. The six will each have 600 personnel, not 470. The restructuring will allow 2,500 troops to be withdrawn from Germany, including three armoured regiments, two of which will be reconfigured.

The Royal Navy has the promise of two 40,000-tonne aircraft carriers to replace three 20,000-tonne ships but because there is no specific commitment in the White Paper, there are fears that the Treasury in the future could delay spending money on bigger carriers.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, has tried to out-think the Treasury with proposals that result in a much cheaper carrier than could have been imagined five years ago. The Ministry of Defence hopes to be able to build two carriers each with 50 aircraft, for a total of between £3 billion and £4 billion, largely by keeping the design and the equipment simple.



Robertson at the presentation of the defence review, which he said would enable Britain to act as a "force for good" in the post-Cold War world

THE DEFENCE WHITE PAPER IN FIGURES		
	NOW	FUTURE
ROYAL NAVY		
Trident submarines	4 (96 warheads each)	4 (48 warheads each)
Fleet submarines	12	10
Aircraft carriers	3 (20,000 tonnes)	2 (40,000 tonnes)
Destroyer/frigates	35	32
Minehunters	25	22
Amphibious assault ships	2	2
Helicopter carrier	1	1
ARMY		
Armoured brigades	5	6
Tank regiments	8	6
Regular Army	109,000	112,300
Territorial Army	56,000	40,000
AIR FORCE		
Combat aircraft	476	440
Eurofighters	232	232
Strategic lift aircraft	0	4 C17s to be leased

At the heart of the review was the intention to create "high capability" forces that could meet the expected challenges of the next 15 years. One plan, initiated by the Royal Navy and RAF chiefs, is to develop a Joint Force 2000, under which Sea Harriers and airforce Harriers will come under joint command for operations from carriers and for training.

Mr Robertson also announced the formation of Joint Rapid Reaction Forces from all three Services to make it possible to deploy two formations, each of about 15,000 in strength, on two separate op-

erations. Another 3,300 troops for the support services are to be recruited to provide the logistic back-up needed.

All three Services have gains and losses arising from the defence review. Apart from the cut in frigates, submarines and mine hunters, the Royal Navy is to get only 44 of the new Merlin helicopter. There had been plans to order a further 26.

The Army has succeeded in hanging on to The Parachute Regiment, even though the last massed parachute drop was during the Suez crisis in

1956. However, two parachute battalions are to be transferred to 24 Air Mobile Brigade, based in Colchester.

One surprise is that the new anti-armour missile ordered by the previous Government has survived the axe, as has the new Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft.

All three military chiefs made statements yesterday. Admiral Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, said: "The plans stand us in good stead and ensure that we remain one of the most powerful and effective navies

in the world." General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, said he was particularly pleased that the Army was to retain its capabilities to participate in high-intensity conflicts.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of the Air Staff, said he "very much regretted" the need to remove 36 fast jets from the frontline but welcomed the fact that "we have avoided any redundancies".

New chores for Trident

A BROADER role for Trident submarines is one of the surprises of the defence review. The number of nuclear warheads on each submarine will be halved and the boats will operate on a reduced state of alert.

That will give more time for exercises with other submarines and surface warships, equipment trials and work on charting the ocean and studying weather patterns.

The day-to-day operating

posture of the Trident ballistic missile submarines has not changed since the Cold War.

Each submarine at present goes on patrol with a maximum of 96 warheads on its 16 missiles. Under the new policy, the maximum load will be 48 warheads. An order for another seven Trident missiles from the United States has been cancelled. The White Paper estimates the cost of running the Trident force at about £280 million a year.

Leading article and Letters, page 23



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McDonagh: abrasive

Woman set to get top Labour job

By NICHOLAS WOOD

LABOUR leaders are today expected to choose Margaret McDonagh as the party's first woman general secretary in its 100-year history.

Senior sources said last night that the appointment of Ms McDonagh, 37, the current deputy general secretary, to the £49,000-a-year post was a "foregone conclusion."

She tops a shortlist of three candidates who will be interviewed at a special meeting of Labour's ruling National Executive Committee at its Millbank party headquarters. Ms McDonagh, who is regarded as highly efficient but abrasive, has the backing of Tony Blair.

Draper quits his job and faces party expulsion

DEREK DRAPER, the man at the centre of the cash-for-access row, was yesterday accused by Labour MPs of bringing the party into disrepute as he quit his job at a lobbying company.

The damage caused by the allegations spread as Conservative leader William Hague taunted Tony Blair as he asked, in an effective Commons performance: "Doesn't he recognise that government without principle very quickly becomes government for sale and that is what is now beginning to happen? When is he going to stop protecting the money-grabbing cronies he has surrounded himself with — they are feather-bedding, pocket-lining, money grabbing cronies — and actually clean up the act of this Government?"

And in a new twist yesterday a government minister walked out of a local government press conference in a row over Labour's links with lobbyists close to Tony Blair.

Mr Draper's conduct dominated a highly charged meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party yesterday. A succession of MPs rose to criticise the conduct of the

Pressure grows over access row, report Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

former right-hand man to Peter Mandelson.

The MPs, who included Dennis Skinner, Alice Mahon and Robin Corbett, accused Mr Draper of bringing the Labour Party into disrepute by his boasts of being able to introduce his commercial clients to leading members of the Cabinet. Some MPs have written to the Prime Minister to ask him to launch a full scale investigation into Mr Draper's conduct.

If the disrepute charge is upheld Mr Draper would face automatic dismissal from the Labour Party, which he joined more than 10 years ago. But Clive Soley, the chairman of the PLP, appealed for calm. He said: "Action cannot be taken on the basis of no evidence and when any evi-

dence put forward is inconsistent."

Labour Party sources played down the likelihood of Mr Draper being expelled. One said for such drastic action to be taken Mr Draper would have to have been judged to have been guilty of a "sustained course of conduct prejudicial to the party".

Mr Soley raised the matter at the afternoon's weekly meeting of the Parliamentary Committee where backbenchers put their concerns directly to members of the Cabinet including the Prime Minister. Mr Blair promised the meeting that new rules on links between the Government and lobbyists would be introduced as quickly as possible.

Emerging from the PLP meeting the left-wing MP Diane Abbott said: "There was a lot of feeling from all sides, left and right. People were saying: 'We've got rules about bringing the party into disrepute and Derek Draper especially has done so.'" Tony Benn said: "It was very strongly and clearly put."

Meanwhile Mr Draper bowed to the inevitable and quit from the lobbying firm GPC Market Access, which



William Hague taunted Tony Blair in the Commons

suspended him on Monday morning, pending a full investigation. 24 hours after the allegations broke.

Sir Ian Wigglesworth, the chairman of GPC Market Access, said: "Following discussions, Derek Draper has resigned in the best interests of GPC, its clients and staff, and to pursue other interests."

"The board of GPC welcomes Mr Draper's decision. Like him, GPC believes it will be in the best interests of our clients and our staff, whose support over the past few difficult days we have greatly valued."

Friends of Mr Draper said he left before he was pushed. "He knew his position was untenable. He has done the honourable thing. He did not want to cause his employers any further embarrassment," said one.

Hilary Armstrong, the local government minister, became embroiled in the row yesterday. She reacted furiously when she was quizzed over the relationship between Ben Lu-

cas, a former adviser to Jack Straw, and the Labour controlled Local Government Association, which is funded by council tax payers.

Mr Lucas, a director of LLM lobbyists, is at the heart of the row having been accused of leaking advance contents of the Chancellor's Mansion House Speech.

A BBC correspondent alleged he had been told by the Local Government Association that it had awarded the contract to LLM because Mr Lucas said he could secure before publication the forthcoming White Paper on local government.

Ms Armstrong described the claim as an "outrage". She stormed out of the news conference saying: "No one other than you from the BBC has suggested that anyone from the Government has been involved in deals. It is a slur, it is outrageous. It is not true. I do deals with no one and I have been straight with delegates here." The LGA said that there had been a misunderstanding.

Time and the euro wait for no government

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

ONE of Paddy Ashdown's virtues is that he is willing to ask unfashionable questions. These are often of far more long-term importance than the so-called issue of the day. Yesterday he ignored all the fuss about cronyism and leaks, and raised an issue that Tony Blair wishes would go away: the single currency.

Euro-enthusiasts and sceptics are now in a curious alliance in wanting to debate the issue publicly. Sceptics have raised the profile of their "save the pound" campaign, though they still have to overcome rivalries among two dozen separate bodies. Nonetheless, business has organised against the euro with the report from 100-plus chairmen and chief executives, while Francis Maude, Shadow Chancellor, has developed the Tory economic case against joining.

The pro-EMU camp is at present rather diffuse, and more frustrated. Kenneth Clarke and, in the background, Michael Heseltine have led the Tory sympathisers with EMU. The Conservative Group for Europe yesterday published a pamphlet by Mr Clarke arguing that Britain must prepare itself now for the possibility of entry. Alan Donnelly, the new leader of the Labour group in the European Parliament, yesterday raised the stakes in arguing that it is not a question of if Britain joins, but when. Mr Ashdown leads most Liberal Democrats in also pressing for an early referendum.

There are differences of approach among the pros. Mr Ashdown argued that if the Prime Minister came off the fence and set a target date subject to a referendum, then "the pound would come down tomorrow and interest rates would come down next week". Mr Ashdown was oversimplifying since, as Mr Blair pointed out, if the pound were brought down artificially and interest rates were cut when monetary conditions were not right,

the result would be inflation. But Mr Ashdown is right to call for a much clearer statement of government strategy. Its campaign to prepare business for the euro will be stepped up in the autumn, but is still low key. Mr Blair is looking to the success of the euro, and its increasing use in Britain, to help to gradually win round public opinion.

Supporters of entry, such as Mr Donnelly, are following the classic Fabian doctrine of the inevitability of gradualness: "It will become increasingly apparent to the British public that this is something that we cannot afford to stay out of." He may be right that the government propaganda campaign to explain the euro will become a drive for "yes". But I doubt if the Government can rely just on events and market forces. Mr Blair and Mr Brown will have to offer more of a lead themselves if they are to win a referendum.

Moreover, Euroland will not itself stand still. Proposals for harmonisation of taxes are already on the table and the 11 initial participants are increasingly likely to co-ordinate their economic policies to complement the activities of the European Central Bank. And the costs of staying out will become more apparent with risks to London's role as a global financial centre.

Mr Ashdown may be overstating the short-term economic benefits of an early commitment, and underestimating the risks, but he is right that the Government will not be able to stand on the sidelines for as long as Mr Blair and Mr Brown wish. The electoral and euro cycles may not coincide. The enthusiasts and sceptics are right: the time for a public debate is now.

PETER RIDDELL

Clarke scouts out currency entry

By POLLY NEWTON AND CHARLES BREMNER

BRITAIN must prepare itself now for a rapid entry into the European single currency, Kenneth Clarke said yesterday.

In a pamphlet published by the Conservative Group for Europe, the former Chancellor said that the British public would judge whether exclusion from economic and monetary union was damaging to the economy. "Meanwhile,

the Boy Scout motto of 'be prepared' makes good political sense. The country must prepare itself now for the possibility of entry, because events might make it attractive for us, in the national interest, to move rapidly in that direction."

Mr Clarke, who angered Tory Eurosceptics before the last election by insisting that the party must not rule out British entry into the single currency, warned that there would be a high price to pay for continuing splits over Europe.

Meanwhile, the newly-elected leader of the Labour party in the European Parliament said yesterday that British membership of European monetary union was inevitable and the Government's campaign to explain the euro would become a drive for a "yes" vote.

Alan Donnelly, who is close to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and describes himself as a pioneer of New Labour, said: "It is not a question of if Britain will join, but when."

'Hands-off' civil servants blamed on HMSO sale

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE sale of the Stationery Office for £54 million by the Conservative Government has been criticised by MPs as "an unacceptable abdication of responsibility."

In one of the most damning reports to be published this year by the Public Accounts Committee, MPs will today accuse the Office of Public Service, which handled the sale, of "a serious lack of grip."

"They are angry that a sale of the HMSO was allowed to go ahead for £17 million less than the most pessimistic pre-sale valuation of £71 million. They also question whether it represented value-for-money to the taxpayer when the profit — after repayment of a £50 million loan — was only £3.8 million.

The decision to press ahead with the sale to a consortium headed by Rupert Pennant-Rea, the former deputy governor of the Bank of England, was taken by Michael Heseltine, the former Deputy Prime Minister, and Roger Freeman — now Lord Freeman — the former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. MPs are, however, angry at the "hands-off" approach of senior officials.

David Davis, the Tory chairman of the accounts committee, described the handling of the sale as entirely inappropriate. "The result was that they did not get to grips with their responsibilities as vendor... The approach adopted by the department amounts to an unacceptable abdication of responsibility."

MPs were astounded by the stance of officials at the Office of Public Service, who took the

view that they needed to advise ministers only about the affairs of the Stationery Office if they were asked to do so. As HMSO had its own chief executive and management structure, civil servants believed it was not their duty to interfere in day-to-day control of the organisation.

MPs say that their defence is "unconvincing" and that they "should have taken a closer interest in this publicly-owned business for which ministers were responsible". They add: "In the light of HMSO's increasing commercial problems, we consider that the OPS should have taken an active interest in the business and should have taken the initiative, in defence of the taxpayer's interest, to advise ministers about the need for action to help performance. Not doing so contributed to a loss of value in the sale."

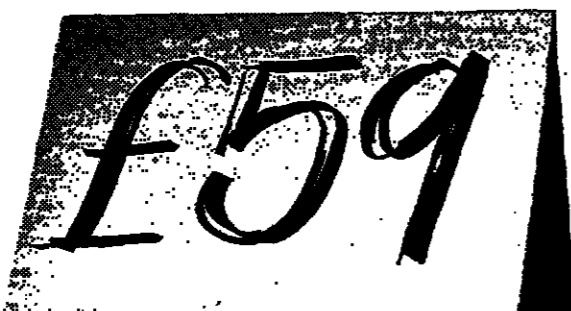
MPs are disturbed that, even though ministers decided to prepare a sale in 1995, it was not until a year later that officials fully understood its chaotic financial state. Even when the chief executive was about to retire, officials made no attempt to find a replacement to handle the run-up to the sale. The MPs describe their conduct as "inexplicable".

The accounts committee also says it is not convinced that full value for money was obtained from the financial advisers, Coopers & Lybrand. Whitehall officials were last night angry that MPs had focused their attack on officials and not former Conservative ministers.

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Clinton initiative fails to curb racial prejudice

PRESIDENT CLINTON will turn to national television tonight to defend his much-criticised drive to overcome racial divisions, as a series of high-profile murders have thrown new attention on America's oldest problem.

Yesterday Camille Cosby, wife of the entertainer Bill Cosby, attacked American society for encouraging violence against blacks. After Ukrainian immigrant Mikhail Markhashev was convicted of murdering Ennis, the Cosbys' only son, she said: "I believe America taught our son's killer to hate African-Americans."

Her remarks came shortly after three white Texans were formally charged with tying a black man to a vehicle and dragging him to his death. Yet in government, as Mr Clinton's aides acknowledge, there is bewilderment about what to do next.

The President's mantra of creating a "colour-blind society" has gone the way of John Major's classless society, an admirable goal, by which no sane politician should ask to be judged.

The puzzlement of officials springs partly from the fact that race has been the target of some of Washington's most ambitious attempts at stimulating social change. But three decades after the civil rights movement and more than a decade after the introduction of affirmative action principles, divisions are still visible.



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

The startling segregation of the main cities remains.

In a survey this week on racial integration around the world, *The Washington Post* found more cause for hope in Britain than at home.

British blacks are five times more likely to marry whites as are blacks in the US, the paper found. It cited British research showing that about half the black men of Caribbean descent born in Britain who were married or living as married had paired with a white. About a third of black women of Caribbean descent born in Britain had done so. In contrast, it pointed to evidence that only about 8.9 per cent of married black men in the US had picked white partners, and only 3.9 per cent of black brides.

While not ignoring racial violence in Britain, it re-

marked that "inter-racial couples walk hand-in-hand at London street fairs, with no apparent concern for how people around them will react. In television comedies and dramas, romance routinely cuts across racial lines" it added, citing the relationship between Diana, the Princess of Wales, and Dodi Fayed as a case of life imitating art.

It is easy to poke fun at the rhapsodic tone: "The British Empire is dead as a political unit, but it lives on in human form in the cities of Britain," the *Post* opined. But it has identified a truth: that racial prejudice, particularly against blacks, still goes deeper in the US than in most other developed countries.

Like many, Ms Cosby points to slavery as the special curse of America; among other targets, she objects to dollar bills carrying images of early Presidents who were also slave-owners, such as George Washington on the one-dollar bill, and Thomas Jefferson on the two-dollar note.

Mr Clinton's well-meaning attempt to jog the nation into confronting its racial problems has been dogged from the start. His "Initiative on Race" programme, started last summer and scheduled to end this winter, has been attacked for not producing new ideas or money.

Administration officials argue that some measures are working. The drive to get people off welfare and into work has fared better than most advisers dreamt. Prosperity and demographics — there are proportionately fewer young men — have also sent the crime rate plummeting across the country, bringing new hope that the decay of inner cities can be reversed.

There are hopes, too, that the increasing integration of Hispanics and Asians into the mainstream economy may ease the special isolation of some black communities. But the shadow hanging over American politics at the moment — the fear of an economic slowdown — is a counterweight to much of this optimism.



Irene Silverman and her house on New York's Upper East Side and below, Kenneth Kimes and his mother Sante, who has a long criminal record

Mother and son team held as socialite vanishes

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A MOTHER-and-son team of suspected confidence tricksters faced questioning yesterday about the disappearance of a wealthy socialite last seen wandering her Upper East Side townhouse in a nightgown.

Police with bloodhounds scoured Central Park for Irene Zambelli Silverman, 82, a former ballerina, married to a property developer, after finding a trail of blood outside her home on stylish East 65th Street.

Investigators tracked down the mother and son when an off-duty detective recognised Kenneth Kimes from a police sketch shown on television of a tenant at Mrs Silverman's



house. Mr Kimes, 23, and his mother, Sante, 63, were both in custody in New York having been arrested shortly after her disappearance on Sunday on a warrant from Utah for buying a \$14,000 (£8,500) car with a bad cheque.

Mrs Kimes has used aliases, including The Dragon Lady, and has an arrest record dating back to 1961 for such offences as theft using forged credentials and stealing a mink coat from a Washington hotel.

Married to a Las Vegas motel owner whose whereabouts are unknown, she served five years in jail for enticing four Mexican immigrants to her home in California and enslaving them as maids. Police believe that

about two years ago, she teamed up with her son, whose only previous arrest is for assaulting a police officer in Florida last year.

When the two were apprehended, the authorities in California contacted police in New York to question them about an unsolved murder in Los Angeles in March. David Kadzin, 63, was found dead in a skip and some of the money from the sale of his house turned up in the Kimes's bank account.

At the time of their arrest, the pair were found to be carrying Mrs Silverman's passport, bank account information and some of her cheques. "They are professionals," one police source said. "The only questions we have is, are they murderers?"

Tina Brown to quit magazine and launch film company

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

TINA BROWN, Editor of the *New Yorker* and doyenne of New York's "Briterati", resigned her post to form a new magazine, publishing, film and television company with the founders of Miramax Films.

A former Editor of *The Tatler* and *Vanity Fair* who is married to Harry Evans, 70, a former Editor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, Ms Brown transformed the *New Yorker* from a staid, often windy, magazine to a fizzy mixture of politics and showbusiness in the British style during her six years in charge. In a radical move, she added photography to the wordy journal.

Ms Brown, 44, increased the *New Yorker's* circulation from 500,000 to 800,000, but generous payments to contributors and lavish promotional events left the magazine still making losses. The owner, S.I. "Si" Newhouse, reportedly became unhappy and installed a new publisher earlier this year.

Ms Brown will become a partner and chairman with Harvey and Bob Weinstein, the Hollywood *wunderkind* who blazed a new trail for independent movies, and Ron Galotti, publisher of *Vogue* magazine, with whom she worked at *Vanity Fair*. The new company will publish books and a monthly magazine as well as producing films and television programming.

This partnership with Miramax is a unique creative and business opportunity — to own what we create and to expand our vision into other media," Ms Brown said. "Harvey and Bob Weinstein raised the bar for quality movies, demonstrating that they could reach a commercial audience, and I am very excited about becoming their partner."

"Harvey, Bob, Ron and I all agree that there is a substantial audience for thoughtful, high-quality movies, books and television programming that is now underserved," she added. "Based on our collective experience, we believe we

can expand that audience and attract new viewers and readers to our efforts. This is no reflection on my wonderful experiences at Condé Nast."

Mr Evans said Ms Brown had been offered another five years at the *New Yorker*. "This is a tremendous coup for her," he said.

Harvey Weinstein, whose Miramax Films has won 30 Oscars and five Palme d'Ors, paid tribute to Ms Brown as an "innovator who revolutionised the magazine business" and called her "the best editor in the world. The formation of this new company fulfils my goal of producing a dramatic act two for Miramax by venturing into exciting new areas of creativity with two tremendous partners."

New Yorker writers speculated that the new venture would raise its staff, leaving the magazine reeling.

Mentioned as possible in-house successors are Hendrik "Rik" Hertzberg, the senior editor, Kurt Andersen, columnist and former Editor of *New Yorker* magazine, David Ben-El-Mechaieq, a staff writer, and Bill Buford, the literary editor who used to edit *Granta*.

Among outsiders are Michael Kinsley, a former *New Republic* writer who now edits Microsoft's online magazine *Slate*, Walter Isaacson of *Time* magazine and Graydon Carter, who replaced Ms Brown as Editor of *Vanity Fair*.



Brown: "audience for high-quality products"



Mixed-race marriages are still unusual in the US

Hashimoto faces 'referendum' on leadership

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPANESE news organisations forecast yesterday that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party would fail to win a majority in the Upper House election, an outcome that could put the leadership of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the

Prime Minister, in doubt. With Japan sunk in recession, the vote on Sunday is being seen increasingly as a referendum on Mr Hashimoto's management of the enfeebled economy. His declared ambition is to regain the majority, which the LDP lost nine years ago. *The Yomiuri Shimbun*, Ja-

pan's biggest-circulation newspaper, forecasts that the LDP will win 64 seats. The party needs 69 to gain control of the second chamber of the Diet, the Japanese parliament. A survey by the Kyodo news agency showed the ruling party would win only 60 seats, which echoes the forecasts published by three leading

newspapers on Tuesday. Mr Hashimoto's party has a comfortable majority in the more powerful Lower House, and will continue in government whatever the result on Sunday. But a poor result would force it to seek help from minor parties on crucial Bills to rescue the ailing banking sector.

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Russia still deadly, insists former spy

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A FORMER Russian spy who defected to the United States in 1992 claims today in a new book that his native country is more dangerous than ever and that the Moscow mafia is engaged in a new Cold War.

Stanislav Lunev, a former colonel in the GRU, the Soviet Union's military intelligence unit, says in *Through the Eyes of the Enemy* that Moscow has a plan for poisoning the US water supply; that Russia still trains anti-American terrorists for Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria; and that lists of US leaders targeted for assassination still exist.

He claims that two years

ago President Yeltsin ordered industrial espionage against American firms to be the priority of every Russian intelligence agency.

The central argument of the book, however, is that the mafia controls key parts of the Moscow Government. After the break-up of the Soviet Union, he says, the mafia became the only group with enough economic clout to buy newly privatised state industries and also parts of the government.

Last night, the Russian Embassy in Washington described Mr Lunev's allegations as ludicrous with no foundation in fact.

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THURSDAY JULY 9 1998
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Junta 'killed Abiola by medical neglect'

THE sudden death on Tuesday of Chief Moshood Abiola has raised suspicion that he was murdered by Nigeria's military regime on the eve of his release from prison. The conviction that foul play was involved is held by family members and by members of the Yoruba ethnic community in the southwest.

Chief Abiola is reported to have suffered bouts of illness since being detained by General Abacha, who died himself last month. But both Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, and Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, said Chief Abiola was in good health when they saw him last week.

That a 60-year-old prisoner under pressure to renounce his claim to the presidency should have a heart attack is not beyond the bounds of credibility. Chief Abiola is said to have suffered from diabetes and other medical complaints, and Dr Mitchell Feinman, his American doctor, said his condition could be fatal.

A broadcast by General Abdulsalam Abubakar, the country's new leader, announcing the release of Chief Abiola had been expected in the days before his death. Many thought last night's announcement, coinciding with the end of a one-month mourning period for General Abacha would contain news of Chief Abiola's release.

The most graphic account of

Family's suspicions of regime fuel conspiracy theories that tycoon was murdered, David Orr writes

Chief Abiola's final hours comes from Thomas Pickering, the United States Under Secretary of State, who was with him when he collapsed at Aso Rock in the capital, Abuja. Mr Pickering said Chief Abiola appeared to be "very disturbed and in some significant pain". After he was taken to a nearby clinic, doctors

of youths who marched through Lagos yesterday believe so. Members of his family, in particular his daughter, Hafsat, who lives in Washington, claim that he was either poisoned or that he died of medical neglect. "It was too convenient," she said. "All of a sudden at the eve of his release, he dies." Another daughter, Wuru, denied that



Is it possible that Chief Abiola was poisoned by the military? Gangs of youths in Lagos think so

worked on him for 90 minutes but were unable to save his life. Like Mr Annan and Chief Anyaoku, Mr Pickering said afterwards that he had no reason to suspect foul play.

Is it possible that Chief Abiola was poisoned by the military before going into Tuesday's meeting? The gangs

he had ever suffered from a heart condition.

The charge of neglect is not difficult to sustain. Dr Ore Faloma, his Lagos doctor, had not seen Chief Abiola since last year. He said his efforts to visit his patient were thwarted by bureaucratic obstruction. He said the last attempt he

made to see the detained politician was in February.

The cause of Chief Abiola's death will not be ascertained until a post-mortem examination has been performed. The Government has agreed to an Abiola family request that an international team of pathologists be present at the examination. This is to be carried out in the British High Commission clinic in Lagos with the participation of Dr Richard Shepherd of St George's Hospital in Tooting, London.

To add to the conspiracy theories, the death of Abacha, the man responsible for Chief Abiola's detention, is likewise rumoured to have been caused by foul play. Among the more colourful stories are that he was poisoned after frolicking with two prostitutes in a villa outside Abuja, and that he suffered a heart attack after taking the anti-impotence drug, Viagra.

The existence of a plot to kill this most hated of Nigerian tyrants cannot be ruled out. He succeeded in alienating many high-ranking members of the military and there are few who would have missed his autocratic style. But the truth is likely to have been more prosaic.

The former dictator is known to have functioned for years on little sleep and copious quantities of brandy. Until evidence emerges to the contrary, it must be assumed that the 55-year-old general died of a heart attack.



Richard Shepherd, who is to conduct the post-mortem examination

Top London pathologist is used to controversy

By HELEN RUMBELOW

THE London pathologist flying to Nigeria to conduct the post-mortem examination on Chief Moshood Abiola is no stranger to trouble-shooting.

Dr Richard Shepherd's forensic inquiries have provided vital evidence in many politically sensitive cases of the past decade. Three months ago he was at the centre of controversy after helping the Prison Service to produce a report on deaths of black prisoners. He also examined the body of the murdered black teenager, Stephen Lawrence.

In the first of his high-profile cases ten years ago, he conducted post-mortem examinations on Michael Ryan and his 16 victims in the Hungerford massacre. Dr Shepherd, now Lecturer in Forensic

PROFILE

Medicine at St George's Hospital, also worked on the Marchioness boat disaster in which 51 people drowned, and the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common.

In the small world of forensic pathologists — there are less than 20 practising fulltime in Britain — his status has made him the doctor of choice in murder cases or mysterious deaths that grab national headlines.

Michael Green, Professor of Forensic Pathology, Sheffield University, said: "He's a bright young man whose opinion is widely respected."

Before setting off for Nigeria last night, Dr Shepherd said he wanted to keep a low profile, despite his involvement in the cases behind many sensational headlines.

US envoy tells of heart attack

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THOMAS PICKERING, the US envoy, described yesterday how Chief Moshood Abiola was taken ill.

A former Ambassador to Moscow, and generally seen as the *éminence grise* of the Clinton State Department, Mr Pickering was clearly shocked by the situation that unfolded at his meeting with the imprisoned Nigerian politician.

The Under Secretary of State said Chief Abiola had entered the room in good spirits and recalled a meeting the two men held about 15 years earlier. Then Chief Abiola's condition began swiftly to deteriorate and he

WITNESS

started to wheeze and cough. In an interview with National Public Radio, Mr Pickering said Chief Abiola excused himself to visit the lavatory. "He had asked earlier for cough medicine," he added. "When he came out of the toilet, he asked for painkillers. And then sat on a couch and was overheated and asked for the room to be cooled, and removed some of his garments; and then clearly began to suffer."

"By this time, we had asked the Nigerians who were with us — the security officer and a Foreign Ministry representative — to send for a doctor. The doctor arrived in about

seven or ten minutes. I had felt his pulse. It was steady, but I'm not a physician and obviously couldn't diagnose it, but he was clearly very cold and very disturbed and in some significant pain."

Mr Pickering said he and other members of the American delegation, including Susan Rice, the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, then accompanied Chief Abiola to hospital. Doctors at the clinic struggled to save him, Mr Pickering said, but he died 90 minutes later.

"I don't have any reason to believe there was any sort of foul play," Mr Pickering said. "The doctors felt that the symptoms... were consistent with a cardiac arrest or a pulmonary embolism."



General Obasanjo, 61, has the credibility and charisma to hold Nigeria together

Yoruba general is best hope to avert civil war

A FEW days ago a senior member of Nigeria's military regime sagged in his chair, bit his lip and rolled his eyes when asked what would happen if Chief Moshood Abiola died while in detention. "That question," he replied, "is too terrible to contemplate."

The terrible has come true and the junta faces an explosive cocktail of thwarted ethnic political ambitions, a newly martyred leader of the pro-democracy movement, and a civilian population that even hardline officers admit could rise up in a rebellion as bloody as the Biafran War, which cost a million lives.

General Abdulsalam Abubakar — President since Sani Abacha died a month ago — and his cronies in Abuja have little time to make good their oft-repeated promise to return to civil government. Failure to do so will realise their worst nightmares.

Chief Abiola was a billionaire businessman who made his fortune from a close association with previous military regimes. His tribe, the Yoruba, and the many smaller groups from whose land Nigeria's oil wealth is pumped, will never believe he was not murdered. The military have anticipated this and yesterday asked the Abiola family to allow a post-mortem examina-

There can be no peace if southern tribe is kept out of power, writes

Sam Kiley

tion. Chief Abiola was taken fatally ill during a meeting intended to persuade him to give up his claim to the presidency in return for freedom.

The millions of Yoruba, and other southern ethnic groups, are convinced that the Muslim northern elite which controls the Armed Forces, will never allow a southerner in the presidential palace. They believe Chief Abiola was killed because he refused to betray the aspirations he embodied.

In the short term, General Olusegun Obasanjo, 61, who was sentenced to death for allegedly plotting a coup against the hated General Abacha and was released by his successor in mid-June, is probably the only man with the credibility and charisma to hold the country together. A Yoruba officer who inherited the top job when Murtala Muhamamad was killed in an

abortive coup attempt, he presided over a short-lived return to democracy in the mid-1980s. Since his release he has been an adviser to the military government, while at the same time insisting that he would not support a government that did not adhere to democratic principles.

"He could emerge as the ideal person to lead a transitional government up to elections. The military have just a few days to figure things out before they risk being kicked out," said a senior Western diplomat in Abuja yesterday.

Ben Okri, the novelist and 1991 Booker prize-winner who has been in exile from his Nigerian homeland for a dozen years, said: "It is essential to the future of Nigeria [that] there be the possibility of electing a southern president, otherwise there is no way forward. People from all over the country, not just the north, have to feel that they have a chance to field a candidate for head of state. If not, there will be civil war."

Chief Gani Fawehinmi — national co-ordinator of the Joint Action Committee for Nigeria, an umbrella group of pro-democracy organisations, and Chief Abiola's former lawyer — said: "You can forget Nigeria as a country unless we have democracy."

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No need to fret about febrile fits

In my Norfolk practice about 40 years ago, there was a very industrious tractor driver who worked so hard, by night as well as by day, that he had no time for a social life. As a result he married late.



Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on convulsions; sinusitis; pancreatic cancer; peanut allergy; why the Dutch are so tall

His wife was of a similar age and was delighted when she conceived. She had twins — two splendid boys. All was well until the twins were about a year old; then one night I received a telephone call from the very anxious and frightened mother. One of the twins had had a convulsion and had remained unconscious for some minutes.

The tractor driver and his family lived in an 18th-century red-brick cottage surrounded by drained marshes. By the time I reached him, the baby had recovered consciousness but the parents were sick with anxiety. Would their child grow up to be an epileptic, had he developed some terrible cerebral tumour? Was it all because they had married late? It was obvious that the child had a high temperature, and that he had caught the family cold, but there was no evidence of meningitis or of any of the other common ills of childhood, such as a urinary tract infection.

With all the certainty of youth, I gave the parents my reassuring talk on benign febrile convulsions. The term febrile sounds alarming but it simply means feverish. These convulsions were typical of those that children between the ages of six months and six

years have as a response to a high temperature. This particular twin had convulsions nearly every time he developed a cough and cold, and I spent many nights trudging over the marsh to visit the family. A fever lowers the convulsive threshold of the brain to stimuli, so that fits in those who are susceptible to them are more easily triggered.

Although a risk of a baby with febrile convulsions having seizures in later life is only 2 per cent, it was a relief when the cherished twin outgrew the fits and became a tough schoolboy.

The textbook *Essential Paediatrics* suggests that 4 per cent of children have some lasting problem if the convulsions are very prolonged or have some other atypical feature.

The *New England Journal of Medicine* recently reported on 400 children who had

suffered febrile convulsions as infants. By the age of ten those children who had fits when they had a temperature were doing just as well as their contemporaries, and there was no evidence that they were in any way intellectually or emotionally impaired. The study was even more reassuring than are most doctors. Although the number of cases was comparatively small, even those children who suffered from prolonged or serial fits did not seem to have suffered lasting harm.

It is possible to give young children anticonvulsant treatment to stop febrile fits, but as they are usually innocuous the standard advice is that the possible side-effects of such medication are likely to be more disadvantageous than the fit itself. Aspirin is no longer given to children, or even adolescents, to bring a temperature down. There is always a fear that it may

induce Reye's syndrome, a rare condition in which there is fatty infiltration into the liver and kidney, as well as sometimes the heart and pancreas, and damage to the brain.

Febrile convulsions have to be separated from other causes of fits, some of which are of importance. Infantile spasms may later lead to epilepsy. Fainting, so easily confused with fits, has many causes, but may be the result of heart disease. Many other conditions, including renal disease, are associated with fits. Parents sometimes even think of breath-holding as being a fit. In such instances, a self-willed child who is not getting its own way holds its breath, stamps its feet and goes purple in the face. He or she usually capitulates before losing consciousness, but not always.

The *British Medical Journal* and *British Journal of Ophthalmology* have both reported a study of 32 children under two years old who had had one or more fits. None of the children showed any signs of retinal haemorrhages, the sign that was so important in the case of Matthew Eappen, who was being cared for by Louise Woodward.

The authors conclude that any child who has had a retinal haemorrhage that was allegedly the result of a fit should be investigated for a non-accidental injury. Such haemorrhages are a common finding in children who have been shaken.

Suffering and sinusitis

PARTY leaders, like doctors, are not supposed to be ill. The most savage attack of flu has to be shrugged off as if it were no more than a summer chill. William Hague has broken with tradition and allowed himself a fortnight's sick leave with an illness which those who have not had it refer to as "just sinusitis".

Mr Hague's reaction to illness may at first have seemed to show some lack of resolution — but sinusitis is not only very painful; if the fluids in the sinus become purulent from bacterial infection, it can be associated with a very high temperature.

Mr Hague has apparently been taking good care of himself. His medicine chest is overflowing with powerful antibiotics which jostle for a place with such homely remedies as Ribena, Lucozade and Vick. And if the might of the pharmaceutical industry combined with the nostrums of the prep school sickroom cannot put him right, there are always the remedies of those who believe in an alternative to traditional medicine. Mr Hague has also tried reconstituting his gut flora by introducing a few organically produced harmless bacteria.

Contrary to press reports when Mr Hague was first admitted to hospital, the serious complications of sinusitis are rare and mainly involve infection of the frontal sinus in the forehead, or the ethmoid sinus behind the nose, rather than the maxillary sinus, which is in the cheekbone. The maxillary sinus is the one most often infected.

The sinuses are the cavities in the skull bones around the nose. If these bones



Hague: good reason for sick leave

were solid, the head, even without the noble Hague brow, would be too heavy for comfort.

The sinuses also give some resonance to the voice — hence the suggestion that the rather distinctive Hague voice might be a sign of chronic sinusitis. This is possible, because it seems that Mr Hague has a deflected septum — the cartilaginous and bony partition between his two nasal passages — and may need minor surgery to correct this. Poor drainage from the sinuses and chronic sinusitis are possible

complications of a deflected septum. On the other hand, Mr Hague's slightly flat and nasal voice may merely betray his Yorkshire background.

Infection of the maxillary sinus — the cavity in the cheekbone — causes pain over that area, toothache and headache. A sharp tap on the cheekbone is unusually painful. Frontal sinusitis may cause a very severe headache, with pain over the eye and swelling of the eyelid: in this condition, a sharp tap on the forehead causes considerable pain. If the fluid is under tension, the infection can spread to the orbit and needs draining. Persistent infection and fever will mean admission to hospital.

Infection of the ethmoid sinus is more tricky, as generalised orbital infection with damage to the eye may occasionally follow, but fortunately it is also rare. Admission to hospital is the rule.

Why did Mr Hague develop such a heavy upper respiratory tract infection, and why did it give rise to secondary bacterial sinusitis? Was it the flights in Bosnia? Is he working too hard, is he dispirited, or possibly taking too much exercise? If he works out "only" three times a week and does judo twice a week, he seems to be forgetting my advice that the best exercise is a brisk walk for between 20 minutes and half an hour each day.

Sinus infections may show that resistance is lowered, that the infection-fighting T-cells in the blood are reduced — in other words that Mr Hague is, in old-fashioned parlance, run-down.



Karen Mulder, the model, is typical of her generation of Dutch, now the world's tallest

Lifestyle and diet push Dutch to record highs

ALTHOUGH the Dutch may have been deprived of their World Cup win by the penalty shoot-out, they are winning another race. The *British Medical Journal* reports that the young of The Netherlands are already the tallest of their age group in the world and are getting taller.

There may be subgroups within a population, but the height of the average Dutch person is now even greater than that of the Scandinavians, whom they overtook in 1980. Unfortunately, they are also getting fatter; the number classified as overweight has doubled in the past 18 years.

The average height of the Dutch would be even greater were it not for the size of immigrants, but immigrant families start to catch up in a generation. Diet is an important factor. The Dutch are great consumers of dairy products, and not for them mussels — they are trenchermen (or women) who glory in a high-protein diet. Dutch doctors also claim credit and cite the uptake of vaccination of children as an example of the population's health-consciousness; 95 per cent of children receive all the recommended immunisations.

New Age warriors may not approve of the vaccination, but they would endorse another factor quoted as a reason for the height and stature of the Dutch: the "psycho-social climate" of Holland helps children to thrive. National pride, a relaxed atmosphere, steady exercise, tight-knit family and close community ties all help to ensure a sense of wellbeing during the formative years.

In contrast, a child who is unexpectedly small should always raise the suspicion that it is failing to thrive because of emotional misery. More often, however, the cause will be genetic.

However, detailed examination would be needed to exclude the occasional case of chromosomal disorder or metabolic disease.

Testosterone and cancer

FEW patients with cancer of the pancreas are suitable for radical surgery as the disease is usually detected only when it is already well advanced. Prolonging survival rate is therefore a very important consideration with this form of the disease.

Over the past few years, a trial has been conducted at Hinchinbrooke Hospital in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, by Brian Greenway, a consultant surgeon. He treated 24 patients with Drognil (tamoxifen), which is normally used to block the effects of testosterone, and compared the results with those of 25 patients who were not given the drug.

The survival time of patients who had the androgen (male hormone) blocker was double that of the others. He concluded that testosterone was a growth factor for pancreatic carcinoma and that an anti-androgen was therefore a useful method of treatment. The work has been confirmed by animal studies.

The problem with this cancer is that in its early stages it is without symptoms and only later do patients notice a loss of appetite which may precede all other symptoms such as loss of weight, upper abdominal and back pain, coupled, in time, with jaundice. It is hoped that increased use of ultrasound may enable more tumours to be detected at a time when they will be amenable to surgery.

A nutty problem for nursing mothers

A CORRESPONDENT to *The Times* was worried as to why allergy to peanuts has only recently become an important health issue. In fact peanut allergy has been recognised for many years but it is now a growing problem, with one person in 200 being allergic to peanuts.

Peanut butter, once so beloved by nanny in the nursery and a well-remembered part of the wartime diet, is now thought to be one of the ways in which children are sensitised to it. Peanut-rich foods, whether taken by a pregnant woman or lactating mother, may also sensitise the foetus or newborn infant. Professor John Warner of Southampton University associates

maternal consumption of peanuts with the increasing prevalence of the allergy and its earlier onset. Research suggests that antigens from the peanut-seed mother cross the placenta barrier, and other studies have shown that the unborn baby can become allergic to peanuts as a result of swallowing the amniotic fluid of a woman who may, for instance, have eaten too many peanuts with her evening drink.

The Department of Health suggests that peanuts are not an essential part of anyone's diet and should be avoided by women with a family history of allergies. Children under three with a similar family history should not have peanut products.

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Who really killed JonBenet?

In their first interview, JonBenet Ramsey's parents deny her murder. Report by Sherry Keene-Osborn and Daniel Glick

It seemed an open-and-shut case. A six-year-old girl is found dead in her home in Boulder, Colorado, the day after Christmas. The large, elegant house, equipped with an alarm system, shows no signs of forced entry. There are no footprints in the surrounding snow.

The mother finds a three-page ransom note in the kitchen, claiming her daughter has been kidnapped. An odd sum — \$118,000 (£72,000) — is demanded for her return. She will die if her parents do not contact the police. Her parents do contact the police. But before they arrive her father "discovers" the body in a hidden basement room. The girl was possibly a victim of chronic sexual abuse. Video footage of her appearances on television, showing her strutting provocatively, wearing scarlet lipstick and blue eyeshadow. Even before the murdered child is buried, the parents separately hire high-profile criminal defence lawyers.

With a nod and a wink, law enforcement officials let reporters know that the murder was a sordid family affair. It is all over but the sentencing.

Or is it? The child, JonBenet Ramsey, is now a household name in America. Images of her singing *I Wanna Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart* in a pink cow-girl outfit are etched into the nation's psyche, thanks to the saturation media coverage of her still-unsolved murder. Eighteen months later, there have been no indictments, no arrests and no conviction. But

her parents stand accused in the court of public opinion of bludgeoning and strangling their daughter, then arranging an elaborate cover-up.

The public evidence against John and Patsy Ramsey consists of a barrage of media stories, repeated in increasingly garish detail, suggesting — and sometimes stating outright — their guilt. Appallingly, most of the so-called facts in the stories are simply wrong.

Now the Ramseys have given their first full interview since their daughter's murder. for a British documentary to be shown on Channel 4 tonight. Their version of the circumstances of JonBenet's death and subsequent investigation is largely corroborated by internal police reports and official documents, as well as by interviews with Ramsey family members, friends, acquaintances and law enforcement sources. The documentary does not address issues of guilt or innocence per se; rather, it raises a serious question about whether the Ramseys have been the targets of a latter-day witch-hunt.

Sitting in the living room of their yellow-brick, two-storey home in a secluded Atlanta suburb where they moved after the murder, John and Patsy Ramsey display a range of emotions as they discuss Jon-

Benet, their reaction to finding her dead body, and the trauma of media intrusion (including discovering a hidden camera at JonBenet's grave). They discuss Patsy's fight with ovarian cancer, and John's tragedy of losing another daughter, from his first marriage, in a car crash in 1992. They steadfastly maintain their innocence, deny many of the stories told about their family and lash out at the apparent media trial that has already convicted them.

"Everything in our lives has been scoured," Patsy says. "They talked with my fourth-grade teacher, my friends from elementary school. There's nothing. I'm not saying I've been perfect my whole life, but there is no history of any activity like this. It's ridiculous."

John Ramsey is at times angry and occasionally sarcastic. "The American public has been led to believe that, after a wonderful Christmas, we brutally beat JonBenet, sexually molested her, strangled her, went to sleep, got up the next morning, wrote a ransom note, called the police, sat around the house for four hours, then I went downstairs and discovered her body and was able to act distraught. Patsy was able to throw up that morning because of gut-wrenching anxiety. Help me to understand that. Where is our common sense as a society, as a race of people?"

Reporters were told the case was a sordid family affair



Video footage of beauty pageants has engraved JonBenet's image on the American psyche

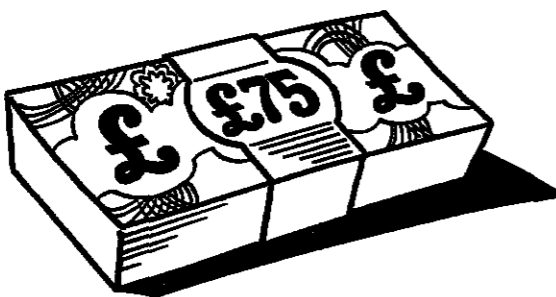


John and Patsy Ramsey: found guilty by the media



"We loved JonBenet more than life," say her parents

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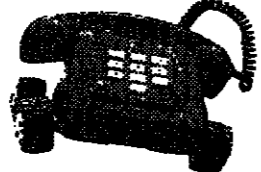


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So why do Americans believe that this attractive, upper middle-class couple are murderers? For starters, the O.J. Simpson case had reinforced a deep distrust of wealthy people who hire top criminal attorneys, seemingly in order to escape justice. The case of Susan Smith, a Southern mother convicted of drowning her two small children by driving them into a river and then blaming an unidentified black man, was still fresh in people's minds. Since JonBenet's father was the chief executive of a successful business and her mother was a former Miss West Virginia, the overtones of these recent cases resonated strongly.

The Ramsey story had all the ingredients — beauty, wealth, murder — to attract hordes of media, from the *National Enquirer* to the *Sunday Times*. But it is hard to believe how they all got the facts so wrong, so fast. During the first week, the mayor of the small college town where the murder took place told the media that there had been "no sign of forced entry" into the house. The obvious unspoken implication is, Patsy believes, what touched off the media frenzy against them. The mayor now says she was given that information by the police.

And it was unnamed "law enforcement sources" who were quoted by reporters as saying that there were "no footprints in the snow", along with stories about how JonBenet's body was found in a mysterious room in a labyrinthine basement. These details all made it seem as though it would have been impossible for anyone outside the family to have committed the crime.

It would be months before the facts began to emerge: in the house that night, there were several unatched windows, a smashed basement window pane where John Ramsey had himself broken

into the house, and at least one unlocked door. It was unseasonably warm and there was little or no snow in many areas of the garden and walkways. Her parents recall that JonBenet rode her Christmas present, a bicycle, around the patio that day. And as for the "hidden" basement room, it was plainly visible from the bottom of the basement stairs.

During the documentary, the Ramseys talk about other stories intended to implicate them, some of them extremely difficult to refute. There were allegations that John was an avid consumer of pornography; that he had abused his other children; that JonBenet's autopsy report showed evidence of prior sexual abuse.

The Ramseys categorically deny all these stories. JonBenet's paediatrician says he never suspected she was being abused, while her father's children speak movingly of how their father is "the best in the world", one who has never raised a hand to them nor behaved in any way that might be described as abusive. John Ramsey's first wife firmly says the same. Even more convincing, by law enforcement officials acknowledge that they have not turned up any evidence to support these charges.

The story about hiring top

criminal lawyers was also misleading. The Ramseys had not hired their lawyers; friends had, after sensing that police suspicion about the couple was growing. John says that when he learnt that lawyers had been hired his reaction was "What in the world for?" Later, when told that police had tried to withhold his daughter's body for burial in order to force an interrogation, he lost all confidence in them. "They were not there to help us, they were there to hang us," he says.

By April this year, the Ramseys had lost their daughter, their lives in Boulder and their reputations. John had also lost his job. Everywhere they went cameras followed them. Tabloid reporters would accost them on flights. But they were gradually emerging from the protective shell built by their grief and by their family and lawyers. John Ramsey wrote to the Boulder District Attorney, who had taken the case over from the police, and offered to sit for more questioning. "The single most important thing to us, from that day until even now, is to find the killer of our daughter," John says. "This... creature."

At the end of June they sat for 42 hours of grueling interrogation by experienced homicide detectives and representatives from the District Attor-

ney's office, a move that the DA, Alex Hunter, called "extraordinary" for a couple under such suspicion — and so well represented by counsel.

Hunter, his staff and experts brought in for this case are now sifting through the hours of interviews and records that the Ramseys have provided. The authorities are, for virtually the first time, seriously looking at other possible suspects. The case is still likely to go before a grand jury later this summer.

Meanwhile, the Ramseys are trying to resume their lives, and to provide as normal an existence as they can for their 11-year-old son, Burke. John is starting a new business. The couple seem remarkably unconcerned about what the public may have concluded about their daughter's murderer.

"Anybody who knows us, knows that we loved JonBenet more than life. And we would have given our lives instantly to protect her had we the chance," says John. "What people were saying about us or thinking about us was really insignificant to us."

What is significant, say he and his wife, is the very real possibility that JonBenet's killer is still out there. "I don't know what happened," says Patsy Ramsey. "God knows, and He's not telling."

● Who Killed JonBenet? is on Channel 4 tonight at 9pm. The authors are associate producers of the programme. They also write for Newsweek.

'We would have given our lives instantly to protect JonBenet'

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Labour lets go of nanny - at last

The urge to run our lives has been curbed, says Mary Ann Sieghart

Liberty lies at the heart of the Conservative and Liberal parties. It barely raises a flutter in new Labour chests. The other day, someone at No 10 said to me: "What's that you're always banging on about? Oh yes, personal freedom and all that stuff." Gradually, though, ministers are coming round to "all that stuff", and if the conversion is for political rather than principled reasons, it is no less welcome for that.

The latest evidence is Tuesday's report from the Government's Better Regulation task force recommending against a national registration scheme for nannies. "The end of the nanny state" would not have been a bad headline. For here was an argument, put by a Labour working peer, Chris Haskins, that parents should take their own decisions, unfettered by government, about their own children's welfare in their own homes.

Instead of taking the easy, regulatory route of insisting that all nannies have qualifications and are vetted by local authorities, the task force rightly recognised that what many of the best nannies lack in training they make up for in buckets of common sense. Resourcefulness, patience and an affectionate nature cannot be taught. The minutiae of bottle-feeding, first aid and balanced diets can be learnt on the job - as most mothers have to do.

For parents to manage their own risk, they need information. Employers of nannies ought to be able to make police checks on applicants. But neither police checks nor registers can prevent a Louise Woodward. That is the tiny risk that working parents take.

The acceptance of this argument is a sign that the Government is stumbling, blind through lack of conviction, towards a new liberalism based on personal responsibility. Like the party's gradual acceptance of free-market capitalism in the 1980s, this conversion is taking place more for electoral reasons than from any gut instinct. "It's a free country" is not a phrase that naturally stirs a Labour soul. But it is a phrase that stirs many a voter, and it is a useful slogan for the Tories against a nannying Labour Government.

Just as Labour knew that it had to come to terms with capitalism, because there was no alternative, so it has been forced to acknowledge that British voters are more "grown-up" than ever before. They are better informed and better educated. They are more used to choice, more aware of their rights. They are fascinated by their health and the risks to it. And they have been brought up, at home and at school, to expect freedom and autonomy in their lives.

Maybe in the 1940s the gentleman in Whitehall really did know best. In an age of deference, when newspapers were not full of health advice, when bookshelves did not carry shelves of self-help manuals, people were prepared to be told what was best for them.

This quiet acceptance, though, has broken down. The strictures of Edwina Currie and Virginia Bottomley on public health were seen as bossy intervention rather than wise counsel. Small children may tolerate nannies; teenagers chafe and adults rebel.

It has taken Labour some time to realise that voters in a modern society demand freedom. Ministers' early instincts were to see regulation as a cost-free form of activism, latching on "do something", and constrained by lack of money, they banned tobacco advertising, beef on the bone, handguns, and harmless doses of vitamin B6.

But a subtle shift is taking place. Whatever happened to the idea of halving the drink-drive limit? Sensibly, it has been filed on the same back shelf as the proposal to ban "raw", unpasteurised milk. Sitting next to it is a statutory ban on smoking in public places. Instead there will just be a voluntary code.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, is sensitive to the risks of being labelled the nation's nanny. In a recent interview, she said: "This is not your nanny state. You don't dictate these things to people. If some people want to die early, that is their choice."

Choice is the critical component in this political mix. If vitamin B6, in high doses, risks giving people tingling hands and feet, they should be allowed to choose whether these symptoms are more tolerable than the pre-menstrual tension that the vitamin helps to cure. All they need to be able to make an informed choice is a warning on a label.

Grown-up government involves accepting that some people might rationally choose to smoke two packets of cigarettes a day and die of lung cancer at 60 rather than give up, and live a longer but tetchier life. Others might so enjoy their food that they would rather risk death by chocolate than endure a longer life of fat-free asceticism.

People differ in their preferences. In pursuit of the perfect tan, I will risk skin cancer. I will not ride a motorbike to work or smoke cigarettes, but I would happily eat a T-bone steak. "Risk and proportionality" are subjects now being studied by the No 10 policy unit, thanks to urging from Chris Haskins, who has made Risk by John Adams compulsory reading for its members. He is hoping to run a Downing Street seminar with the Prime Minister in attendance in the autumn.

But if government is to free up our lives, we need to adopt a more adult attitude towards those who rule us. When the first child dies from drinking raw milk, ministers should be allowed to say: "We warned you. You chose to take the risk." Initially, such incidents may be politically difficult. But it will not take long for the rules of engagement to change. Modern Britain is growing up, and nannies do not look after adults.



"THERE WAS A LEAK..."

Europe's tax Anschluss

Austria and Germany want the City to pay more taxes. Will Blair, like Major, oblige?

The Austrian Government, which last week took over the presidency of the European Union, has declared that standardising the level of taxes across Europe will be one of its priorities in the next six months. This declaration should make British Eurosceptics face facts.

We have wasted the past five years arguing about the wrong issue and in the process have distracted the public from the real dangers of EMU. We have forgotten that EMU does not stand for European Monetary Union, but for "economic and monetary union". And this second, officially approved designation, is far more directly and obviously threatening to Britain's prosperity, sovereignty and democracy (in that order of importance) than the introduction of a single currency and the equalisation of interest rates.

If you think that this is just a semantic argument, ask some people who work in the London art market. The chances are that large parts of their businesses are in the process of being wiped out or relocated to New York. This is happening in response to exactly the kind of tax harmonisation that the Austrian Government wants to extend in the name of "economic union". And it wants to extend it to an industry - the global financial marketplace in the City of London - whose prosperity is far more important for Britain's livelihood than even the once-proud possession of what used to be the world's leading art market.

Austria, of course, is just one small nation of eight million people. The views of its Chancellor on the future of Europe therefore enjoy rather less democratic backing than those of the future mayor of London. But remember how often Viennese politicians have been used as proxies by their more powerful neighbours in Berlin and Bonn. And bear in mind that the next two nations to occupy the EU presidency will be Germany and France. Both Bonn and Paris have declared their enthusiasm for carrying on the great work on taxation to be started in Vienna. If so, 1999 will be a momentous year in the history of the European Union - and a vintage year for harmonisation and regulation in the name of "economic union".

Before continuing this argument, let me elaborate on what has happened to the British art market and what this has to do with the City, harmonisation and EMU. London

used to be the world's leading market for fine arts and antiques until 1994 when the European Commission, under pressure from struggling art dealers in Paris, imposed a VAT rate of 2.5 per cent on all art imported into Britain and provided for this rate to be increased to the 5 per cent prevailing in the rest of Europe in July 1999. The art trade issued a warning that this new tax would drive much international business from London to New York and Geneva, where no such imposts had to be paid. But John Major, as usual making a mockery of his claims to be defending Britain's interests in Europe, refused to exercise his veto against the VAT directive. In exchange for the minor concession on timing, he also deprived his successor Government of the opportunity to block the additional increase agreed for 1999.

For once an industrial lobby's grim predictions were exactly fulfilled. Nearly all of the world's most important art auctions are now held in New York, where both Christie's and Sotheby's have relocated their corporate headquarters. According to official statistics, Britain's trade in fine art and antiques is now 22 per cent lower than it was before the imposition of VAT. As a result, 50,000 very well-paid British jobs, 10,000 once prosperous businesses and some £2.2 billion of annual turnover have been put in peril. Now the British art market faces the prospect of a further decline unless Tony Blair can concoct some kind of deal.

Why has a seemingly minor increase in taxes resulted in such a big loss of trade? The answer sheds light both on the dynamics of European harmonisation and on some of the perils facing Britain if its single most important source of wealth and skilled employment - the City of London - is weakened by EMU.

The centre of the global art market has been moving ineluctably from London to New York (taking with it the jobs of many interesting and worthy academics, artists, historians

and conservationists, as well as the Bond Street fat cats) because there are certain businesses where competition is so finely poised that a very small change in relative tax rates can have a totally disproportionate effect on the volume of business. The businesses that exhibit such disproportionate behaviour have two characteristics which anyone in the City will instantly recognise. They have a mobile, cosmopolitan workforce and depend on a global network of clients. They are also subject to what economists call "winner-takes-all" or "agglomeration" effects.

Globalisation is obvious enough, but what is meant by agglomeration? An art dealer or a bank enjoys one overwhelming competitive advantage by locating in London. This advantage is not the innate talent of the British people, nor even the low level of taxation, but simply the presence in London of all the world's other important dealers and banks. Once some critical mass of these key businesses relocates from London to another centre, most of the rest will inevitably follow. No matter what the catalyst for the initial movement is a seemingly minor change in taxes or other initial conditions, the mass migration can be frighteningly fast.

The postwar prosperity of the City of London, for example, was largely due to a temporary change in American tax laws which allowed a handful of London banks to create a "Euro-market" for borrowers and investors who wanted to keep their dollars offshore. Within a few years, London had become the world's pre-eminent centre for currency trading and today it transacts more exchanges between marks and dollars than New York and Frankfurt combined. More recently London has suffered an equally sudden setback. The German futures exchange in Frankfurt had been struggling for years as an insignificant competitor of the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe). Frank-

furt operated an electronic trading system that cut the cost of each transaction but this had little impact for several years. But late last year the Frankfurt exchange captured more than half of the business in German government bond futures, by further cutting its fees. Less than six months later, 90 per cent of the world's trade in German bond futures - and a clear majority of trading in all European bond futures - had moved from Liffe to Frankfurt.

What has all this to do with EMU and harmonisation in Europe? European politicians and more than a few financiers are uncomfortable with the fact that EMU will concentrate most of Europe's financial activity in a single centre, depriving Paris, Milan, Madrid and Amsterdam of thousands of well-paid jobs. They are even more irate that this centre will be London. The experience of the destruction in the art market suggests that there would be just as much jealousy of London's pre-eminence if Britain were a fully-fledged member of EMU and even if the result of stunting London were simply to move business outside Europe.

Anatole Kaletsky

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Blair's first circle

Scots loathe London cliquishness, says Magnus Linklater

My friend from outer space who had never heard of Derek Draper was puzzled. "Why the front page headlines?" he asked. "Who are these people? Does it matter?" I sympathised. Sometimes, for those of us living beyond the M25, life does indeed feel like being on Mars. Until this weekend, I too had been blissfully ignorant of Mr Draper's now famous inner circle: I would have failed miserably if questioned about the role and significance of Roger Liddle, to say that I was on intimate terms with the 17 people who count in Britain would have been the overstatement of the century. So does it matter?

Well, yes. Not, I think, because the affair of the lobbyists and their inside information reveals hidden depths of sleaze and corruption, nor even because influence is being peddled for money. I doubt if Peter Mandelson's position has been seriously affected, or the Government's credibility undermined. But the signals that have been sent out are all bad. They convey a picture of cronyism and privilege that is a million miles away from the new era of openness which Tony Blair promised when he was swept into power. "You have put your trust in me," he proclaimed on election night. "I will not let you down."

We did not, I imagine, see that trust in terms of a small army of friends, confidants and former advisers of the Minister without Portfolio, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Prime Minister: nor did we guess that access to the powerful would become the preserve of a tight-knit group of lobbyists. Yet within one short year of Labour, whom you know seems to have become more important than what you do. "There is a circle," said Mr Liddle, "and Derek is part of the circle. And anyone who says he isn't is an enemy." When did we last hear language like that? "Not one of us" was Margaret Thatcher's catchphrase. It was not meant to be Mr Blair's.

Downing Street has, naturally, deflected the row with practised ease. Mr Mandelson has distanced himself suavely from the embarrassing Mr Draper, the Prime Minister issues warnings against those who "flutter around" the Government claiming more than they can offer; and the spin-doctors have set about undermining the journalists who broke the story. The revelation that one of *The Observer* quotes depended, not on a tape, but on a reporter's notebook, is portrayed as a flaw in the story and some kind of journalistic misdemeanour.

Then, just to ensure that the story was swept off the front pages altogether, a convenient leak occurred. Details of the Strategic Defence Review were allowed to appear yesterday - a day before they were due to be presented to Parliament. Quite where they came from is unclear, but there was no mistaking the outrage of George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, a straightforward character who would never have condoned this kind of activity. He expressed his anger at a whole-sale leak of the review which meant that he had no opportunity to inform defence chiefs of the changes he planned. Parliament, said Mr Robertson, had simply been bypassed.

Those who decided that the leak was a useful tactic would have lost no sleep over that. For them, a smart piece of news manipulation is simply part of the spin-doctor's routine, a neat way of drawing the sting of a potentially embarrassing story. That the House of Commons was overlooked in the course of it would have been only a minor consideration. MPs do not rate highly in the eyes of Downing Street advisers these days, and even the Prime Minister visits the House as rarely as possible. Hardly surprising then that the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, should see this as a contempt for the whole parliamentary process. So angry has she become that she is said to have threatened to resign. Doubtless she will be dropped forthwith from the inner circle, to join those like Michael Meacher who are in Mr Draper's eyes, "irrelevant".

Perhaps the most damaging aspect of all this is the way it is seen in the rest of the country, away from the fever-heat of Westminster. Mr Blair has doubtless noticed the latest poll in Scotland which puts the Scottish National Party a massive 14 points ahead of Labour. This is a huge slide in popularity, unprecedented in recent Scottish political history. Labour has not only lost its commanding general election lead, it would, on these figures, be only a minority party in the new Scottish parliament. The reaction against it has been partly due to a series of unnecessary errors and misjudgments. But it is also evidence of a widespread sense of betrayal. Scottish voters who the years thought they were electing a Government that would be sympathetic to their concerns, instead they introduced, and metropolitan.

North of the border and possibly elsewhere as well, Blairism is becoming an alien creed. And that was before anyone had even heard of Derek Draper or Roger Liddle.

Roger and out

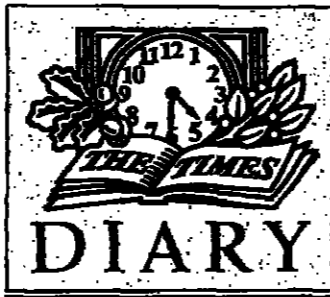
I FEAR that the bell is about to toll for dear old Roger Liddle. Downing Street suggests that the jovial policy adviser will be sacked if there is "the remotest suggestion" that he has been furnishing the business interests of GPC Market Access, the lobbying company of which Derek Draper has now resigned as a director. The tapes may be lacking but now written evidence has reached Diary Towers that Liddle is more than happy to assist the firm of which he used to be a managing director.

Such was Draper's influence that GPC has been able to engage the services of not only Liddle but Peter Mandelson, Derek's mentor, and Ed Balls, economic adviser to Gordon Brown. This is for a series of off-the-record discussions on future government policy with GPC's corporate clients. Internal GPC papers from the end of May show that the three members of the "charmed circle" are "confirmed" to offer the inside track on issues ranging from "EMU", "latest developments on the PFI", to such curiosities as "the policy agenda for the Labour conference". Attendance is, of course, by invitation only and will be limited. Guess

are advised that the information they receive should be retained under "Chatham House" rules. Quite why Liddle is participating is a little odd, since he stated after the scandal broke: "Since my appointment I have never done any work on behalf of Mr Draper or the company." As he failed to return my calls, I must assume that he has not received payment.

Gordon Brown's adviser, Ed Balls - with whom Draper boasted he had intimate access - now regrets his involvement with GPC and says he will withdraw from future events. Sir Ian Wrigglesworth, GPC chairman, says: "It is legitimate for Roger Liddle to attend." Indeed, such meetings may become a useful way of filling Roger's diary.

THE Duke of Edinburgh has been at it again. Touring a school in Boodle, Prince Philip cast an eye over the young scamps and took a caretaker to one side: "Can you manage to control all these vandals?" he asked. Jim Kampsall, chief broom-wielder at Linacre Primary School, defended his charges: "We don't have any vandals, they all come from out-



side. Perhaps the Duke is a little touchy about vandals. It was once reported that the Prince of Wales accused him of "vandalism" for felling ancient oaks at Windsor.

Fixtures clash

CRISIS at the French Embassy last night. Jean Gueguinou, the outgoing (in every sense) French Ambassador, was holding his leaving bash. Uh, oh. Nobody had reminded M Gueguinou, an exotic bachelorette not given to such manly pursuits as football, that this was the night of France's World Cup semi-final against Croatia. The guests included George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, Michael Howard, the former Tory minister, and long comes from the Royal Household. So it was



made clear, discreetly, that the party would be over by kick-off at 8pm - even though my invitation stated that the bash would continue until 8.30pm.

One suggestion: the Ambassador would install a TV but this was judged to drop by a grand onion. Robertson planned a swift swig and fond farewell. "I will endeavour," he says sweetly "to watch as much of the match as I can."

GIBES about English cuisine hold little sway with Pierce Brosnan (pictured), alias James Bond, and Sir Richard Attenborough. Having endured months of filming in Canada, the duo returned to carry on filming in Hastings.

They ordered 101 helpings of fish and chips.

Spun out

DEREK DRAPER will swing back into the political jungle, but he should not bother calling Sir Tim Bell, Baroness Thatcher's favourite spinner, who counts Boris Yeltsin, Lord Lloyd-Webber and Lord Hanson as clients, disapproves. "This affair has damaged all of us," he tells me. "We now have a climate of innuendo. I am surprised it took a year for these newcomers to be called to account." Still, Bell has had his low points, such as advising David Mellor after an awkward slip holed his career; and Tim has just been embroiled.

ALL this fuss about the leak of the Strategic Defence Review. One of the mauls from Diary Towers was on a bus in Chelsea last week, sitting next to a chap reading a draft. "I read huge chunks," she told me. "Good job I'm not a spy."

Up for grabs

PETER and Lana de Savary (pictured), those two icons of Eighties success, are selling up. They are flogging Bathelton Court, their Somerset estate, and moving to



South Carolina. Bathelton is an 18th-century pile, set in "undulating countryside", offered for more than two million big ones. South Carolina is Lana's original home, and it is here that the couple are buying an estate. "Bathelton is more than a house - it is a love affair," he gushes. Key attraction is a pool scented by honeysuckle, jasmine, wisteria and roses. Possible buyers include someone called Michael Flatley, a dancer.

JASPER GERARD

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SENSE ON DEFENCE

A fair-minded and sensible extension of Tory thinking

George Robertson's Strategic Defence Review has been a year in gestation, only to become public a day sooner than intended, thanks to a leak as efficient and precisely targeted as the indignant Defence Secretary believes his review will make Britain's Armed Forces. It has justified the time spent. The result may not be as radical as Mr Robertson claimed. But radicalism was not what was called for. The peace dividend, as Mr Robertson has tried to convince the Treasury, "has already been taken". The past decade has seen defence spending cut in real terms by 23 per cent — 29 per cent if 1985 is taken as the base-line. The Armed Forces have been shrunk by almost a third, tank numbers almost halved and ships and aircraft sharply reduced.

Conservative shears cut deep, and not always with sufficient precision; some areas, notably skilled support such as signals and engineers which are vital to a sustained deployment, are badly undermanned and the start made on highly mobile force configurations required further development. What was most needed, therefore, and what Mr Robertson has largely delivered, was a hard look at current and future capabilities and likely requirements, to identify and remedy weaknesses and further modernise force structures and procurement plans. The Defence Secretary deserves praise for the open-mindedness he has brought to this task; he has sought advice not only throughout the Services and from retired Service chiefs, think-tanks and industrialists, but also from his Tory predecessors. He has made this a tri-Service exercise from the start, avoiding the inter-Service battles that went with past reviews.

The result is not so much a new strategy as a more considered working out of the operational implications of post-Cold War defence preparedness. There are two basic, unchanged assumptions. The first is that, Ulster aside, the main role of British forces will be expeditionary, for battles on foreign shores rather than British beaches. The second is that the battlefield has given way to "battle space", dominated by air power

and intelligence and demanding fully integrated capabilities. All this is uncontroversial. What Mr Robertson has done is to build on the last Government's switch to rapidly deployable forces and tri-Service command and control. The aim is to enable all three Services to deploy forces equipped for high-intensity combat without having to cobble them together on an ad hoc basis. At the heart of the new configuration are two new formations of Joint Rapid Reaction Forces of up to 15,000 in strength, which if need be can be sent simultaneously to two different theatres.

This, the Government claims, will enable the Armed Services both to maintain a brigade-strength long-term peacekeeping force in the field, as in Bosnia; and to deploy within 30 days an expeditionary brigade equipped for Gulf-scale combat, reinforcing within a three-month timeframe. But although Mr Robertson has defended his patch skilfully, he has still had to render to the Treasury Caesar more than he would have liked: £915 million a year in real terms by 2001-02, instead of the £500 million he personally considered feasible.

This is supposed to be partly offset by selling surplus stocks and MoD land worth £2.2 billion on paper but, as the review honestly concedes, "the market value of disposals will be limited". Equipment has inevitably taken some of the strain. The Navy will lose 26 of its planned new Merlin helicopters and the RAF has paid for four C17 Globemaster transports with the mothballing of 36 frontline aircraft. Money will be sought from that old friend, efficiency savings, particularly in procurement, merged logistics, and through further cuts in civilian manpower and more use of private-sector contracting. The Trident deterrent will be downsized and operated at reduced readiness, although crucially, the Government has resisted left-wing pressures to render it meaningless by stopping round-the-clock patrols. The promised new large aircraft carriers may yet prove a gleam in Mr Robertson's eye; between now and 2012 is a long time in politics.

HOPE FOR NIGERIA

Africa's giant poised dangerously between chaos and reform

The death of General Sani Abacha a month ago opened the unexpected prospect of reform in Nigeria, lifting hopes for an end to repression and military dictatorship. The untimely death of Chief Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of the abortive 1993 election and the most prominent political prisoner, has thrown those hopes into jeopardy and the country into turmoil. Rumours are sweeping the country that Mr Abiola was poisoned by the junta, and vengeance against the hated military regime threatens to derail the cautious steps taken by General Abdulsalam Abubakar to free political prisoners and return the country to civilian rule. The moment demands consistent outside support and careful diplomacy.

Luckily, Chief Abiola died at the very moment when leading statesmen were fully engaged in the search for an orderly transition to democracy. His own release was the linchpin of all their plans. The self-made millionaire was not without taint: his business dealings were never free from accusations of corruption. But he appeared to win the 1993 election fair and square and embraced the cause of democracy and human rights with zeal. He was the only man with popular appeal in both the Muslim North and the Christian South; he was not afraid to denounce the subsequent military coup and the generals' brutal corruption; and he refused to compromise his stand by bargaining his freedom — and, it turns out, his health — for his beliefs.

Abiola was no Mandela, but like the

South African leader, his release was the first essential step to any political progress. Over the past two weeks that message has been delivered with vigour and in person by the leaders of the United Nations and the Commonwealth and by emissaries from Britain, America and the Organisation of African Unity. General Abubakar appeared ready to accept the inevitable. His delay may have been forced by the fierce opposition of the corrupt military clique around him, his own inexperience, fears that secessionists would take advantage of the let-up, and the difficulty in agreeing what political role the freed chief should play.

His dithering has been dangerous. Nigerians perceive that their country is drifting, and are now seeking to seize advantage before any new crackdown. The longer there is a vacuum at the top, the harder it will be for the discredited military to set up the machinery for fair and free elections.

Two people could make a difference. One is Wura Abiola, the Chief's articulate daughter, who could lend the weight of her name to the push for democratic change. The other key figure is General Olusegun Obasanjo, the only former military leader to hand over peacefully to civilian rule. Himself sentenced to death by Abacha, he is one man with the credibility and charisma to hold the country together. Since his release he has been an important adviser to the Government. Now, more than ever, it needs to listen to him and, if necessary, entrust temporary power to his hands.

CZAR OF THE STREETS

The tough issues behind rough sleeping

After the revelations about the champagne-swilling clique who claim to pull the Government's strings, old members of New Labour might feel socially excluded. But lest they despair too soon, they should turn to one publication the Prime Minister has not only vetted but presided over. The Social Exclusion Unit's report on sleeping rough shows there is a cocktail of causes behind homelessness and some simple solutions.

Domestic turbulence is the most common reason. One survey found that more than three quarters of homeless teenagers had either truant or been expelled from school. Social work can provide a safety net, but it is a frayed one. Between a quarter and a third of rough sleepers have been in care.

Adjusting to life outside an institution also accounts for a surprisingly large platoon of the homeless. A quarter have been in the Armed Forces. That so many former servicemen should resort to the street challenges clear rough sleepers from the street "if there is nowhere for them to go". But the clear objective of the report is to ensure that there will be enough beds to go round. Will the czar become a despot, clearing the streets to meet Mr Blair's target of reducing rough sleeping to "as near zero as possible"?

The Government should be brave enough to admit that some people choose to sleep rough and remain "socially excluded". So long as their behaviour does not impinge on the behaviour and property of others, the freedom to be different has to be respected.

This refreshing document has had the courage to resist the most simplistic solutions — especially the notion that more money will solve everything. Although more cash is promised, it is the bureaucracy that will change. A single department will now be put in charge of co-ordinating all government plans. London will have a czar of the streets. Now that more is known about rough sleepers' backgrounds, prevention may be able to complement cure.

So far, so good. But the Prime Minister needs to give a clear lead on two thorny issues. First, rough sleepers who take up a place in one of the new hostels should be expected to look for work unless medically unfit. In the report, this is a suggestion: it should become a requirement. Secondly, what of the few who continue to live on the streets out of choice? The Prime Minister says that the police cannot be expected to clear rough sleepers from the street "if there is nowhere for them to go". But the clear objective of the report is to ensure that there will be enough beds to go round. Will the czar become a despot, clearing the streets to meet Mr Blair's target of reducing rough sleeping to "as near zero as possible"?

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Questioning view of Navy's future

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN, Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships

Sir, Lawrence Freedman, in his pre-view (article, July 7) of the Strategic Defence Review (SDR), seems to sustain the Whishhall illusion that we still have "substantial" Armed Forces. This is a widely held view and much of the forthcoming comment on the SDR will start from that premise.

It depends on what is meant by substantial. After four decades of nearly continuous cutbacks, the current strength of the Royal Navy stands at 38,000 excluding the Marines. The Navy could just about fill an average Premiership football ground. This number is only 5,000 more than the US Coast Guard and 20,000 fewer than the French Navy, although 11,000 of the latter are national servicemen.

That the Royal Navy can still give a good account of itself says much for the enduring standards of those few who still serve, but even this residual capability is under threat as warship building rates continue their steady decline and the Armed Forces are compelled to adopt the mores of the civilian workplace, regardless of the damage to fighting efficiency.

The stated intention to build two new aircraft carriers should be seen in the light of a similar decision to replace two amphibious assault ships, which was taken in mid-1991. The keel of the first was laid in May this year, some seven years after the political commitment and only after numerous further policy reviews.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE,
Editor, *Jane's Fighting Ships*,
Foundry House, Kingsley,
Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9LY,
July 8.

Tapes for notes

From the Chief Press Secretary at 10 Downing Street

Sir, Your editorial, "Tapes for notes" (July 8; see also letters, same day), says it is "hardly unexpected" that there is no tape of the disputed conversation between Roger Liddle and *The Observer's* Greg Palast.

It certainly came as a surprise to those of us who were told that there was a tape. The only reason we made this an issue is because *The Observer* insisted they had such a tape, first to reporters following up their story, and then in an interview on Radio 5 on Monday with Mr Palast. He was asked if he had Mr Liddle's remarks on tape and replied: "I have that for certain."

It took several letters from Downing Street, and several challenges to Mr Palast by Clive Soley, MP, on *Newsnight*, and a night for the deputy editor to sleep on it, before the paper finally admitted there was no such tape.

We are not saying, as your leader infers, that all quotations are deniable unless on tape. So to say, as your sub-heading does, that this was "a tactical demand with far-reaching consequences" for the way journalists work is not correct. We are saying that Mr Palast claimed to have evidence on tape, and subsequently admitted he has not. It is one of several parts of *The Observer's* investigation that have collapsed on analysis.

On the wider point, about lobbyists, the Prime Minister has made clear the need for vigilance, and is insisting upon new, toughened guidelines which are being drawn up by the Cabinet Secretary.

Yours sincerely,
ALASTAIR CAMPBELL,
Chief Press Secretary,
10 Downing Street, SW1A 2AA,
July 8.

Drunk in custody
From Mr Nick Barton

Sir, While Mrs Jan Prebble (letter, July 3) makes a good case for taking the management of drunken detainees off the hands of the police, simply providing a medical service to oversee detoxification and physical stabilisation will never be enough. It will merely ensure that the "revolving door" between detox and drunkenness turns more efficiently.

Without being able to access appropriate treatment to address the person as a whole, we may only provide what one relapsing alcoholic, who was repeatedly treated to detox only, imaginatively described as a "spin dry".

Yours sincerely,
NICK BARTON
(Chairman),
European Association for the Treatment of Addiction (UK),
375 Kennington Lane, SE11 5QY.

A price on virility
From Mr Christopher Pearson

Sir, Surely the solution to the problem of the NHS financing the use of Viagra (report, July 8) is to make it available only on prescription, but to make men who want it pay for it, certainly including the over-60s.

There has never been anything quite like Viagra before. Why not treat it as a special case?

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER PEARSON,
66 Ormonde Court,
Upper Richmond Road, SW15 6TP,
July 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Commons reform and Tory appeal

From Sir Anthony Grant

Sir, I would go further in one respect than your leading article today, "Muds and rockers".

All the fiddling with the siring hours in the House of Commons (report, July 1) should not distract attention from the basic point that there are too many MPs, wasting too much time overall in the House, at too great expense.

It is not surprising that so little interest is shown in the chamber. It has long ceased to be any check on the Executive. After all, most back-benchers are more keen to join the Executive than to scrutinise its activities. An enhanced role for the select committees is the only future hope.

At the turn of the century Britain ruled almost a third of the globe — and did so with half the ministers we have today. Parliament worked quite well with far fewer MPs proportionately. As our power and influence in the world has inexorably declined, so the amount of words recorded in *Hansard* has just as inexorably increased.

As it is, our Parliament has more legislators than, and sits nearly twice as long as, other comparable countries. The millennium is the occasion to reverse this.

The trouble is, as Edmund Burke observed: "Those who have been once intoxicated with power, and have derived any kind of emolument from

it, even though for but one year, can never willingly abandon it."

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GRANT
(Conservative MP, 1964-97),
32 Beaufort Place, Thompsons Lane,
Cambridge CB5 8AG,
July 6.

From Mr John Bowis

Sir, You are right in your challenging leader today to call on the Tory party to extend "an emancipating hand to all voters".

We have a Government which is proving itself to be one of the most selfish in memory, putting its future before the futures of people who need its care. Who would have thought that among its first acts would be to plunder our pensions, to threaten lone parents and people with disabilities with the loss of their benefits and to pull away the ladder for students from less well-off homes.

Long after the wallpaper and off-shore trusts and Sierra Leone have become academic footnotes, vulnerable people and those who care for them will remember that they trusted Labour and were betrayed by them. That is a gap my party would do well to fill.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BOWIS
(Conservative MP, 1987-97),
44 Howard Road,
New Malden, Surrey KT3 4EA,
July 6.

Supportive public funding for arts

From Mr Robert Barnard

Sir, Mr James Eastwood's interesting letter today about the regional opera companies raised a question in my mind. When the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, suggested that the London companies or company should tour, there were cries of horror from music critics and commentators: touring was fearfully expensive, and they would have to be given a massive increase in grant if they were to contemplate it.

Yet the companies that do tour — all the time, as part of their remit — are the regional companies, and they are the ones which are given the smallest subsidies. Why?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BARNARD,
Hazeldean,
Houghley Lane, Leeds LS13 2DT,
July 4.

From Sir Nicholas Goodison, Chairman of the National Art Collections Fund

Sir, Reading Richard Eyre's report on the future of opera and dance in London (reports, leading article and letter, July 1; letters, July 4), I was struck by the passages on the need for a new contract with the arts world: "one that had obligations and responsibilities on both sides".

This is exactly what I had in mind when I called a year ago for a new compact between museums and government, one that would be based on accountability and good management from museums in return for stable government funding of their core costs. With understanding from both sides of their commitments and responsibilities, museums and galleries — like the performing arts — could help fulfil the Prime Minister's vision on education, and genuine access for all.

Can we hope that, following the Government's spending review, this principle will be applied across the cultural sector as a whole?

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
National Art Collections Fund,
7 Cromwell Place, SW7 2JN.

'Fidelio' in the square

From Mr Thoroughly Gill

Sir, I thoroughly agree with Simon Jenkins ("A square deal for cities", July 4). Last Wednesday's screening of *Fidelio* in the Great Court at Somerset House, relayed live from Vienna to EU member states as part of Austria's celebrations to mark the start of their presidency, was a remarkable double success.

Not only were we given an excellent evening's entertainment free of charge, but also a preview of how this fine Georgian square could be made available for public use, courtesy of the Somerset House Trust (report, Arts, June 29).

As Mary Allen reminded us (article, Arts, July 1), funding is the key to the nation's current problem with the arts. If the Treasury can be persuaded to link this more closely with the preservation and accessibility of our historic buildings and monuments, so much the better.

Meanwhile, more of the same please, at this and other suitable locations nationwide.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC GILL,
38 Larkwood Drive,
Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6RL,
July 4.

Daily dose
From Dr Ian L. Natoff

Sir, Lady Bowman relies on the blister (or calendar) pill packs being marked with the days of the week to ensure that the daily allocation has been taken (letter, July 6; see also letter, June 25).

These packs have an added benefit for me. When I see it is Wednesday, it reminds me to put out the dustbin.

Yours faithfully,
IAN L. NATOFF,
Chelsea, 48 Goodoyers Avenue,
Radlett, Hertfordshire WD7 8BB,
natofffamily@compuserve.com,
July 7.

Self-regulation
From Mr J. S. Anderson

Sir, Not all professions are self-regulating (letters, June 24 and 30), most notably that of the half a million teachers. There is a long history of regulation of teaching by government, and the consensus seems to be that it is not a success.

There is no council of wise teachers, no Royal College to judge alternative practice. Teachers have no effective mechanism for establishing standards backed by satisfactory evidence, and there is no professional document setting out best practice. The art of measurement of pupil success carries the taint of political adjustment, and some international comparisons seem to contradict our claims to ever-rising standards.

If this is the evidence for government regulation of the professions, then self-regulation looks like the more honest broker. Indeed, perhaps the key to a better national education service is a self-regulating Royal College of Teachers.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. ANDERSON
(Secondary schoolteacher),
Blue Slat Farm, Leyland Lane,
Ulmes Walton, Leyland,
Lancashire PR5 3LB,
June 30.

England's defeat
From Mr J. R. Brett

Sir, Mr Arthur John's suggestion (letter, July 3) that a player given a red card should be replaced by a substitute would surely invite the selection of two or three "hard men" for team squads, whose only task would be to "take out" any talented opposition players regardless of injury.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. BRETT,
15 Pinewood Road,
Bromley, Kent BR2 9AD,
July 4.

American way of death
From Mr Bruce Leeming

Sir, I recently received a US newspaper cutting informing me of the passing of a distant relative in the American Midwest.

The sadness of the advice has been relieved somewhat by observing that the paper's obituary notices are published in its "Lifestyles" section.

Yours faithfully,
B. LEEMING,
29 India Street,
Edinburgh EH3 6HE,
July 4.

Ulster must turn away from 'hatred'

From Mr Tom Williams

Sir, Once again we have to thank Libby Purves ("Christ dies in Drumcree", July 7) for sounding the voice of common sense.

Just what is it in the psyche of the people of Ulster, on both sides of the sectarian divide, which leads them time and time again to reject the opportunity for peace? Just what is it that leads Catholic priests to stay silent on the IRA atrocities, and Protestant clergy to condone the actions of the Orange extremists?

It seems that the Ulsterman learns nothing and forgets nothing. When are the people going to live in the present and plan for the future instead of harking back hundreds of years? Given the current hatreds there is no future for Ulster other than confrontation and destruction. To seek to justify their actions on religious grounds is nothing more than blasphemy.

Would that the people of England could cast Ulster adrift into the Atlantic and let it resolve its own problems. The Easter agreement seemed to point towards some sort of hope. Ulster has now effectively turned its back on it.

Yours faithfully,
T. W. WILLIAMS,
41 Ridgeway Road, Oxford OX3 8DT,
tomw@email.infotrade.co.uk,
July 7.

testament neighbours while the Roman Catholic church is being repaired.

One wonders how such a short distance can see such a difference in attitudes. It was Jonathan Swift, sometime Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, who said: "We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another" (*Thoughts on Various Subjects*).

Perhaps Drumcree parish should take note of Bunclody parish's love for neighbours at this time.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE LAWLOR,
Cloonbeg, 6 Dells Close,
Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0LD,
July 8.

From Mrs Suzanne Simmonds

Sir, Congratulations to Libby Purves on her article. I feel it should be read from every pulpit in Northern Ireland, and by all those who deal in power, not peace.

Yours faithfully,
SUZANNE SIMMONDS,
16 Alfred Close,
Chatham, Kent ME4 5EE.

From Mr Cyril Bryan

Sir, William of Orange was reminded by the first Duke of Devonshire that "he had come to England to protect Protestants, not to persecute Papists" (*Georgiana*, Brian Masters, Hamish Hamilton, 1981).

How can the marching by today's supporters of that King achieve this laudable aim?

Yours faithfully,
C. BRYAN,
16 Drayton Gardens, SW10 9SA,
July 8.

Clergy pay

From the Reverend S. J. Davies

Sir, In her report on the shortage of clergy in the Church of England and the current increase in ordinations (July 3; see also letter, July 7) your Religion Correspondent did not once mention vocation, only "job satisfaction", "career", "pay rise", "starting salary" ... well above the national average for young people.

If these are regarded as motivation for seeking Holy Orders how strange it all sounds alongside the Gospel record of the first disciples' response to Our Lord's invitation: "they forsook all and followed him" (Luke v. 11).

We do not wish to impose upon our clergy a crippling penalty in modern society, but your correspondent's words about a curate's starting salary of some £14,000 helping "to attract high-quality young men and women to the priesthood" have not the ring of vocation-quality. The ministerial priesthood cannot be thought of as a reasonably well-paid job, but only in terms of spiritual calling, whatever sacrifices that may entail.

The report went on to say that the shortfall in ministers was being filled by unpaid non-stipendiary clergy ordained to do so. It is a pity that it failed to mention the voluntary work being done in sacramental and pastoral ministry by many priests after "retirement" (sic), and by lay readers. Without their help, the Church of England would currently be in sore straits indeed.

Yours obediently,
S. J. DAVIES,
The Devon and Exeter Institution,
7 The Close,
Exeter, Devon EX1 1EZ,
July 4.

England's defeat

From Mr J. R. Brett

Sir, Mr Arthur John's suggestion (letter, July 3) that a player given a red card should be replaced by a substitute would surely invite the selection of two or three "hard men" for team squads, whose only task would be to "take out" any talented opposition players regardless of injury.

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J. R. BRETT,
15 Pinewood Road,
Bromley, Kent BR2 9AD,
July 4.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 8: Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick was received by The Queen this morning upon his retirement as Private Secretary to The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon. Her Majesty, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Australian Engineers, received Colonel John Wertheimer (Colonel Commandant). The Duke of Edinburgh this morning held the judging of the Designer of the Year at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Australian Engineers, received Colonel John Wertheimer (Colonel Commandant). The Duke of Edinburgh this morning held the judging of the Designer of the Year at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Australian Engineers, received Colonel John Wertheimer (Colonel Commandant). The Duke of Edinburgh this morning held the judging of the Designer of the Year at Buckingham Palace.



A porter in a white smock sweeps the road in front of the newly installed Master of the Vintners Company as he makes a ceremonial crossing of the road yesterday to St James Garlickhythe, in Garlick Hill, London, for a service of thanksgiving. The ceremony dates from a time when London streets were dirtier than they are now

Receptions

HM Government The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the English-Speaking Union, was present at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday to mark the 80th anniversary of the ESU. The Minister of State for Education and Employment was the host. Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the ESU, Mrs Valerie Mitchell, director-general, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and members of the diplomatic corps were among those present.

Fellows of the Royal Society

The following have been elected Fellows of the Royal Society: Colin Atkinson, Professor of Applied Mathematics, Imperial College, London. David James Purslove Barker, Director of the MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit, Southampton University. John Duhle Beggs, Professorial Fellow, Institute of Cell and Molecular Biology, Edinburgh University, and Royal Society EPA Cephalosporin Fund Senior Research Fellow. Harshad Kumar Dharamshi Hanraaj Bhadesha, Reader in Physical Metallurgy, Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, Cambridge University. David Keith Bowen, President, Bede Scientific Incorporated, Denver, United States.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will attend a service in Westminster Abbey at noon to mark the installation of ten statues of 20th-century martyrs; and with the Duke of Edinburgh will give a garden party at Buckingham Palace at 4.00. The Duke of York will be present. The Princess Royal, president, British Horse Society, will open their Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Welford, Stratford-upon-Avon, at 10.30; will open their new headquarters, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Kenilworth, at 11.35; and as patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, will attend the National Conference at Warwick University, Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, at 2.30.

Lord Swaythling

A memorial service for Lord Swaythling will be held at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8, on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at 5.00pm.

Vice-Admiral Sir Jock Gray

A memorial service for Vice-Admiral Sir Jock Gray will be held at St James's Church, Nayland, Suffolk, on Wednesday, September 2, 1998, at 11.30am.

Friends of St Paul's Cathedral

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Patron of the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral, attended the annual festival service held yesterday in the cathedral. The Very Rev Dr John Moses, Dean, preached the sermon.

Masons' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Masons' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Neil Richard Barnes; Upper Warden, Mr Basil James Rushton; Renter Warden, Mr David Ruffell Deputy Master, Mr Patrick Alexander Copland.

Birthdays today

The King of Morocco celebrates his 69th birthday today. Mr John Ainsley, tenor, 80; Mr Peter Balfour, former chairman, Charthouse, 77; Sir Phillip Bridges, former Chief Justice of the Gambia, 76; Dame Barbara Cartland, authoress, 97; Mr S.J.R. Dawkins, Headmaster, Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, 53; Mr Ben De Haan, racehorse trainer, 79; Mr Richard Denton, meteorologist, 68; Sir George Edwards, O.M., F.R.S., former chairman, B.A.C., 90; the Earl of Erme, 61; Mr Tom Hanks, actor, 42; Sir Edward Heath, K.G., M.P., 82; Mr

John Heath-Stubbs, poet, 80; Mr David Hodney, C.E.I., artist, 61; Mr John Kennedy, chairman, The Law Debenture Corporation, 64; Suzanne Knight of Collingree, 71; Mr D.C. Lewis, former chairman, UK Gold Select Television, 52; Lord St Oswald, 79. Air Marshal Sir John Sutton, 66; Mr Justice Tucker, 68; General J.H. Waldström, former international test pilot, 80; Mr Michael Williams, actor, 62; Dr Stephen Winkley, Headmaster, Uppingham School, Rutland, 54.

Luncheon

London Europe Society Lord Richard, C.C., Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords, was the speaker at a luncheon of the European Luncheon Club of the London Europe Society held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr Derek Prag, chairman, presided. The Ambassadors of Austria, Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal and Switzerland, representatives of the Cyprus High Commission, the German, Greek, Hungarian and Polish Embassies, representatives of the European Parliament, the European Movement and the European Commission were among those present.

New ambassador

Mr Richard Stagg has been appointed Ambassador to Bulgaria from October in succession to Mr Roger Short who will be transferring to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

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Memorial service Lady Barnetson A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady Barnetson was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. The Canon John Oates officiated. The Hon Denholm Barnetson, son, and Mr Jack Franks read the lessons. Mr Doon Campbell gave an address.

Dinners Lucifer Golfing Society The Deputy President of the Lucifer Golfing Society, president of the 62nd annual dinner held last night at the Savoy. Dr A.M. Matthews, Captain, Royal & Ancient Golf Club, St Andrews, Mr T.D. Preston, captain of the society, and Mr P.K. Mazouder, Captain of the Royal Sydney Golf Club, also spoke. Among others present were: The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Flag Officer Training and Recruitment, Colonel J. Thomson (Support Unit Headquarters Land Command), the British Overseas Travellers Golf Club, the Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club, the Captain of the Commonwealth Golfing Society, Mr W.E. Carr, Mr E. Pope, Mr E. Fox, Mr J.A. Neave and Mr C.F. Sedcole.

The Institute of Barristers Clerks Mr Stephen Graham, Chairman of the Institute of Barristers Clerks, presided at a dinner given by the Institute of Barristers Clerks yesterday at the Institute of Directors. The Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, was the principal guest. Tanzania/UK Business Group Sir Martin Laing, Chairman of the British Overseas Travellers Golf Club, was the speaker at a meeting and dinner of the Tanzania/UK Business Group held last night at the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Matthew Gregory Lewis (Mork Lewis), Gothic novelist, London, 1775; Ottorino Respighi, composer, Bologna, Italy, 1879; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Forest Gate, Essex, 1908. DEATHS: Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury 1207-28; Slindon, Sussex, 1228; Jan van Eyck, painter, Bruges, 1441; Edmund Burke, statesman, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 1797; Washington Allston, painter, Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, 1843; Zachary Taylor, 12th American President 1849-50; Washington, 1850; Alexander Keith Johnston, geographer, Ben Rhydding, Yorkshire, 1871; King Gillette, inventor of the safety razor, Los Angeles, 1932; Barbara Woodhouse, animal trainer, Buckinghamshire, 1988. The first Wimbledon Lawn Tennis championship was held, 1877. Gas masks were issued to British civilians in preparation for the Second World War, 1938. York Minster was struck by lightning which set fire to the south transept, 1984.

Lincoln's Inn The following have been elected as Officers of Lincoln's Inn for 1999: Treasurer, Sir John Balfour; Immediate Past Treasurer, Sir Michael Ogden, QC; Master of the Library and of the Walks, Sir Jeremiah Harman; Dean of the Chapel and Keeper of the Black Book, Lord Justice Nourse; Mr David Shirley.

Legal appointments The following have been appointed District Judges: Mr Alistair Murray Babbington, Mr Mark Gosnell, Mr John Timothy Robinson and Mr Stephen Rodgers. Mr Babbington and Mr Rodgers have been appointed to the North Eastern Circuit, Mr Gosnell to the Northern Circuit and Mr Robinson to the South Eastern Circuit.

Appointment Mr Vincent Calarco has been inaugurated as President of the Society of Chemical Industry.

Forthcoming marriages Mr M.C. Antelme and Miss L.P. Courage The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Mark Antelme, The Blues and Royals, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Leopold Antelme of Bucklebury, Berkshire, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Courage of Ellisfield, Hampshire.

Mr J.N. Beckett and Miss D.E. Menzies The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Colin and Lalage Beckett, of Edinburgh, and Elizabeth Menzies, of Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

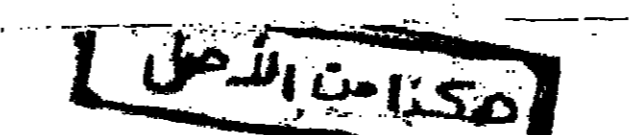
Mr Q.F. Brown and Miss V.L. Nutton The engagement is announced between Quentin, son of Mr and Mrs Ray Brown, of Melbourne, Australia, and Victoria, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Nutton, of Epsomfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.H. Gough-Cooper and Miss B. Albage The engagement is announced between James, son of the late W.H. Gough-Cooper and of Mrs Margaret Gough-Cooper, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Birgitta, youngest daughter of Mr Lars-Gunnar Albage and the late Mrs Margit Albage, of Stockholm, Sweden.

University news Oxford The Queen's College To an Honorary Fellowship: John P. Clay, MA. With effect from October 1: To Extraordinary Junior Research Fellowships in Chemistry: Mark Wilson, MA, D.Phil., Keble College & Physical Chemistry Laboratory; Jason Davis (BSc London), D.Phil., Queen's College & Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory. To a Laming Junior Fellowship: Samuel M. Kennedy, BA, Queen's College. To a Hastings Senior Scholarship: Samuel J.A. Clark (BA York), Queen's College. To Florey EPA Studentships: Panagiotis Politis (Dip Patras) Queen's College. To Howell Studentships in Theology: Richard Dobbin (BSc Yale), Blackfriars.

Cambridge Queens' College Mr Andrew Martin William Glass, MA, PhD (Wisconsin) has been elected to a Bye Fellowship at Queens' College, Cambridge, from October 1, 1998. Bristol Professor Simon Donaldson, FRS, Wallis Professor of Mathematics, Oxford University and Fields Medalist, to a Chair in Mathematics from the autumn term, 1998. Professor B.R. Kershaw, Professor of Theatre and Performance at Lancaster University, to the Chair in Drama.

BIRTHDAYS CHRISTIAN FIELD - Happy 27th Birthday with love from Annie, Willie, Julian, Lucy & of course, Mum & Dad. DANIEL & I wishing you all happiness possible on this special day. We love and cherish you and always will. Love from Dad & Mom. GILL who we could be together to... SERVICES PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency, 100, The Piazza, New Malden, Surrey, Tel: 01889 215999. WANTED ALL CHOCOLATE Articles, old tins, boxes, etc. Tel: 01753 222 922. BEST PRICES paid for all classic articles, medals, books, etc. Tel: 01753 222 922. MEMORIAL SERVICES BARROW - George Corby, 3rd August at Friends Meeting House, Hill Street, Bristol. Donations, if desired, to Quaker Peace and Service or The Quaker Housing Trust. Tel: 0117 222 922. 0181 990 2723. CHAMBERLAIN - Mrs M. Chamberlain, 17th July at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. If desired, donations for Mentmore Trust. Tel: 0117 222 922. 0181 990 2723. CHAMBERLAIN - Mrs M. Chamberlain, 17th July at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please. If desired, donations for Mentmore Trust. Tel: 0117 222 922. 0181 990 2723.



OBITUARIES

CHIEF MOSHOOD ABIOLA

Chief Moshood Abiola, Nigerian politician, died of a suspected heart attack in Abuja on July 7 aged 60. He was born on August 24, 1937.

An accountant and press magnate whose business interests at one time made him one of the richest men in Africa, Moshood Abiola had later emerged as a somewhat unlikely champion of democracy in Nigeria. His claims to be his country's only legitimately elected democratic leader for many a long year were based on his performance as Social Democrat Party candidate in the presidential election of June 1993. In this, according to figures released at the time by the Campaign for Democracy (an informal grouping of Nigerian human rights organisations), he had gained more votes than any other candidate, topping the poll in 19 states, while his nearest rival, the banker Abacha Bashir Othman Tafa, won the remaining 11.

But confusion surrounded the circumstances in which the election was held: a newly formed pressure group called the Association for a Better Nigeria (ABN) had, a few days before the election, obtained an interim injunction in the Abuja High Court, prohibiting the National Electoral Commission from holding it. But the commission declared the injunction invalid and pressed ahead with the poll. The result was that in this climate of uncertainty only 30 per cent of the registered electorate actually went to the polls, giving a result that could hardly be paraded as the will of the Nigerian people.

But Abiola immediately staked his claim to be Nigeria's only legitimate ruler and, thanks to his maltreatment by the autocratic and brutal regime of Sani Abacha, who seized power in November 1993, was able to garner a good deal of sympathy among Nigerians, both Christian and Muslim. He had continued to press these claims from 1993 to the present when, as a figure still in detention in the wake of Abacha's death, he seemed to stand for persecuted decency in a period of otherwise unexampled dehumanisation in Nigeria's political and public life.

Yet nothing in his past deportment suggested that, had he been elected to the supreme power in the state, he would necessarily have behaved very differently from any



Chief Abiola casting his vote at the 1993 Nigerian presidential election

of Nigeria's recent crop of military rulers. He, too, had hob-nobbed with the military when he found it convenient, and he had used his Concord Press group to try to influence the outcome of the presidential election.

Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola was born in Abeokuta, in the southwest of the country, the Yoruba heartland. Of a Muslim family in what is a Christian dominated area, he was educated

at the Baptist Boys High School in Abeokuta, from where he went to Glasgow University to study chartered accountancy. Returning to Nigeria, he was, from 1965 to 1967, deputy chief accountant at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, from which he moved to a similar post at the pharmaceuticals company Pfizer.

His breakthrough to influence in the business world came when, in 1969, he joined the American

telecommunications company ITT first as comptroller of its Nigerian operation, later to become vice-president and subsequently chairman and chief executive of ITT Nigeria from 1971 to 1988. Meanwhile, in 1978, he had founded Concord Press of Nigeria. It was his knack of getting lucrative contracts through his closeness to successive military regimes which gave him total control of ITT Nigeria. Abiola also owned an

airline and had substantial foreign investments.

His position at ITT had exposed him to criticism that he was the unacceptable face of Western economic imperialism in Africa. At the head of his own lucrative publishing company he devoted himself to lavish acts of charity, becoming a philanthropic patron of communities and individuals, building schools and financing the education of children. At the same time he became a leading pan-Africanist, throwing his weight behind a campaign to seek reparations from the West for 500 years of slavery and colonialism. For these activities he was honoured by several American black institutions.

His press power encouraged political ambitions and he owed his original candidacy for the 1993 presidential elections to his one-time good friend and former President, General Ibrahim Babangida. Yet it was the pro-Babangida pressure group the Association for a Better Nigeria which through obtaining an injunction gave the check to Abiola's own presidential hopes, leading to the confusing result of June 1993. By the time the dust had settled towards the end of the year, Babangida had gone and Abacha was in control.

Nevertheless, as the man who had topped the poll in Nigeria's first election for ten years, Abiola continued to remain a focus for those suffering under the economic chaos, as well as the shameful injustice, of Abacha's regime, and there were strikes in support of him. This did him no good with Abacha, who had him arrested and imprisoned. Abiola, however, found himself with the status of a prisoner of conscience in Nigeria. Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, had recently visited him in jail and Western statesmen concerned with the restoration of democracy in the country had been beating a path to his prison cell. The only question was whether he would continue to demand the recognition of his 1993 mandate after his release by Nigeria's present ruler General Abdulsalam Abubakar. Abiola was discussing this with visiting US officials when he suffered the cardiac arrest that ended his life.

Abiola had a number of wives, the most senior of whom, Kudirat, was shot dead by gunmen in Lagos in 1996. His first wife, Simbiat, also predeceased him. Several more wives and children survive him.

PROFESSOR ALAN STUART

Alan Stuart, former Professor of Statistics at the London School of Economics, died on June 25 aged 75. He was born on September 20, 1922.



ALAN STUART was a distinguished academic statistician who significantly developed his own chosen subject through his written work. Joint author with Sir Maurice Kendall of the three-volume *Advanced Theory of Statistics*, he effectively took the work over, becoming responsible for many subsequent editions and updates. He was also a born teacher, taking great pains with students and showing a special facility in looking after postgraduates. He was very much an LSE man — his whole career being spent there, from the moment of his enrolment as a student in 1946 until his early retirement as one of the School's two professors of statistics in 1982. He had a great affection for the institution he served, being particularly proud of his period as Pro-Director from 1979 to 1982. His decision to leave at the age of 60 was purely voluntary, but it nevertheless represented a considerable wrench. His life, however — with his passionate interests in music, literature and painting — had never been a narrow or even single-minded one.

A Londoner, Alan Stuart was brought up in and around the City and was educated at the Central Foundation School just off Old Street. He did well academically, but on leaving he had to go straight into the Army, the Second World War then being well under way. While in the Army he suffered a bad bicycle accident, which meant a year in hospital and left his face slightly disfigured.

At the LSE after the war he did not — as most statisticians do — read mathematics, but took instead a BSc in economics. The year he graduated coincided with the arrival of Maurice Kendall in the chair of statistics, and it was at his behest that Stuart was recruited to the research division that Kendall immediately set up. He made rapid progress there, rising from research assistant to research officer and going on to be first an assistant lecturer then a lecturer and finally a reader before becoming a professor in 1966.

But Stuart's life was never confined by the discipline he served. It

was typical of him that he should have married — a librarian in the LSE library — even before knowing his degree results, and throughout his life he liked to feel that he had got things in the proper proportion. According to Sir Claus Mosser, he was always the one colleague who could be counted upon at international conferences to accompany him to a concert or an opera, and his working knowledge of Dickens — and, indeed, of Proust — was a legend in the LSE senior common room. (More practically, his understanding and command of the stock market also left his colleagues in awe.)

This was all the more impressive as few people can have had more demands made on their time. In 1957 at an international statistical conference in Stockholm Stuart's first wife Flora was struck down with polio and, after long periods in hospital, she finally had to acknowledge that she would lead the rest of her life in a wheelchair. With two young daughters already born, this necessarily threw heavy burdens on to her husband — who, however, coped magnificently, not least in the devotion with which he looked after his wife. Before her death in December 1973, they were able to enjoy two very happy sabbaticals together — one in Nice in 1963-64 and another at Stanford, California in 1972-73.

Alan Stuart was married for the second time in 1977 to Julia Garland — once again a librarian at the LSE. She survives him, along with the two daughters of his first marriage and a son and a daughter of the second.

WING COMMANDER 'DICKY' BIRD

Wing Commander Derek le Roy ('Dicky') Bird, test pilot and explorer, died on June 8 aged 75. He was born on May 11, 1923.

IN THE 1950s' heyday of the British postwar aircraft industry, when it led the world with startling jet designs such as the Comet airliner and the delta-winged Vulcan nuclear bomber, Dicky Bird was at the cutting edge of acceptance test flying for the RAF at Boscombe Down, home of the Aeroplane and Armaments Experimental Establishment. While there, as Senior Test Pilot, he tested low-level reconnaissance, armament and bombing systems on the Canberra bomber and was preview pilot for the Vulcan Mark 2, a remarkable aircraft which was still in active service as late as the Falklands conflict of 1982, when it bombed the Port Stanley airfield.

The crews who flew with Bird trusted him completely for his instinctive ability and

skill in what is always a dangerous branch of flying, since it involves testing the untried and charting a course through the unknown. Fourteen pilots and 19 crew members were killed at Boscombe Down during Bird's four years there. His tour as Senior Test Pilot was twice extended and he received a Queen's Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air. Many thought he deserved the Air Force Cross.

From the 1960s onwards Bird was active in a very different field, as chairman of the RAF Mountaineering Association. As such he had taken part in expeditions to peaks in New Zealand, East Africa and the Himalayas and led the RAF Polar Expedition to the Canadian North West Territories in 1967.

Dicky Bird went to school in Cambridge and joined the RAF as an apprentice at RAF Halton in January 1939. From there he took a first-class honours diploma in mechanical

engineering at Loughborough College. Towards the end of the war he saw service in the Far East and was among the first troops to reoccupy Hong Kong, where he helped to secure Kai Tak airport.

In the immediate postwar period he served with 656 Air Observation Post in Batavia (now Jakarta) in what was still then Dutch East India. There he was involved in locating Japanese troops who were still hiding out in Java and Sumatra.

Returning to Britain in 1947, he qualified as a pilot in 1952 and then went on to the Empire Test Pilots School. He thus became one of the first test pilots who also had an engineering qualification. From 1956 to 1960 he was at RAF Boscombe Down where, apart from the vital tests he conducted on the jet bombers that were the spearhead of Britain's strategic air forces in the days when the Cold War was at its height, he also took

part in a number of the Aircraft Accident Board's inquiries.

After leaving Boscombe Down, in 1961 he went to America to become pilot project officer at the Wright-Patterson base at Dayton, Ohio, for the joint RAF-USAF trials of Skybolt, the air-launched missile that was intended to be carried by the Vulcan. In the event, Skybolt never saw service and it was another American missile, the submarine-launched Polaris, that became Britain's contribution to Nato's nuclear deterrent capacity.

In 1968 Bird was second-in-command of the RAF's entry in the *Daily Mail* Transatlantic Air Race. The *Harrier* entry called on his technical experience to co-ordinate what had to be a very precise flight plan which included frequent refuelling from Victor tanker aircraft. This experience greatly benefited the RAF when it later had to fly *Harriers* long distances over water to reinter-

force its air strength during the Falklands conflict. His final postings were as RAF liaison officer to the Royal School of Artillery, where he advised on defence against air attack, and then liaison officer to the Royal Engineers. One aspect of his duties there was the development of rapid runway repair.

In 1957 Bird had been involved in a serious road accident, sustaining such severe injuries that there were fears he might never walk again. With characteristic determination he returned to full fitness and his flying duties at Boscombe Down. He also, through his chairmanship of the RAF Mountaineering Association (RAFMA), not only led expeditions to the world's major peaks, but encouraged many other RAF personnel with a love of exploration. This had been fired by his childhood familiarity with the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. On his way home from school as a young boy he used to gaze at the diaries of Scott's expeditions on display there. He was himself to become a member of the Arctic Club and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

In 1963 he planned and led the RAFMA expedition to climb the three highest peaks in Africa; in 1965 he was a member of the team which attempted the 26,795ft Himalayan peak Dhaulagiri 6 (it got to 20,000ft); and in 1972 he climbed Mount Cook. An assault on Dhaulagiri 4 in 1974 failed to conquer that peak also.

But perhaps Bird's greatest



Bird: lived with the dangers of test flying in which 33 aircrew were killed during his time at Boscombe Down

achievement was his leadership of the RAF Polar Expedition to Canada's North West Territories in 1967. This made the first crossing of the northern part of Ellesmere Island, reaching 83 deg N, and made nine first ascents of Canadian Arctic peaks on the way. Lord Shackleton, who had been an active patron of the expedition,

had hoped to meet the party coming off the ice. But the Aden crisis (Shackleton was at that time Minister for the RAF at the Ministry of Defence) prevented him from making the trip. However, in 1988 Bird and Shackleton were able to go together to Resolute, in Arctic Canada, with the Joint Services Expedition to Elles-

mere Island. It was Shackleton's first visit since his own expedition to the area in 1934. Finally, in 1994, Bird achieved a secret ambition when with his remarkable wife Kathleen, though they were both in their seventies, he wintered in the Arctic at Kap Tobin, five miles from Ittoqqortoormiit, the northernmost settlement in East Greenland. The aim of this expedition, which was supported by the Royal Society, was to measure pollution in the snow and ice of East Greenland, for which more than 100 ice algae samples were drilled from the sea ice of Scoresby Sund in harsh weather conditions. These were sent to the Freshwater Institute at Winnipeg for analysis.

Bird had retired from the RAF in 1975 and devoted himself to another lifelong passion — carving in exotic woods, mother of pearl and ivory. He was much in demand for ivory restorations, particularly of antique chess sets. In 1978 he began work on a replica of the Lewis Chessmen, a set of 12th-century Norse origin discovered on the Isle of Lewis and acquired by the British Museum in 1831. Bird later gave a lecture to the Chess Collectors' International on the surface markings he had discovered on the figures of the 800-year-old set. Yet he preferred creating his own work, which he displayed at exhibitions of the Royal Mistletoe Society for many years.

Dicky Bird is survived by his wife Kathleen, whom he married in 1944, and by a daughter and two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE... FOR SALE... LEGENDARY Capital Breaks... PHANTOM CHLORO CLIFF... UK HOLIDAYS... FLATSHARE... ANNOUNCEMENTS... COURT & SOCIAL... FOR SALE... FLATSHARE... ANNOUNCEMENTS... COURT & SOCIAL... FOR SALE... FLATSHARE... ANNOUNCEMENTS... COURT & SOCIAL...

FLATSHARE... ANNOUNCEMENTS... CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS... THE BRITISH KIDNEY PATIENT ASSOCIATION... ANNOUNCE IT THROUGH... CLASSIFIED... COURT & SOCIAL... FOR SALE... FLATSHARE... ANNOUNCEMENTS... COURT & SOCIAL...

ANNOUNCEMENTS... CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS... THE BRITISH KIDNEY PATIENT ASSOCIATION... ANNOUNCE IT THROUGH... CLASSIFIED... COURT & SOCIAL... FOR SALE... FLATSHARE... ANNOUNCEMENTS... COURT & SOCIAL...

WILFRED RHODES ON THIS DAY July 9, 1973... A GREAT SLOW BOWLER... Mr Wilfred Rhodes, who had strong claims to be considered England's greatest all-round cricketer, W.G. Grace apart, died yesterday at the age of 95. He was the last surviving member of the team that played the Australians at Edgbaston in 1902, a side reckoned by older cricketers to be England's most glorious eleven.

ON THIS DAY July 9, 1973... In an age of cricketing giants many followers of the game considered Wilfred Rhodes to be primus inter pares. One reads of his feats with awe — 16 times 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in the season; 4,187 wickets (average 16.71) between 1898 and 1930.

THURSDAY JULY 9 1998... sea room... NEWS IN BRIEF... BBC gives Birt 9% pay rise... Cheats jailed... Billie-Jo appeal... Briton freed... knew much BT charged... ok ne service

NEWS

Blair accused of cronyism

Tony Blair fought to protect the reputation of his Government against charges of cronyism by promising that anyone leaking its secrets or overstepping the rules on contacts with lobbyists would be "out on their ear".

Defence budget cut by £1bn

A cut of nearly £1 billion in the defence budget over the next three years was announced as part of the Government's Strategic Defence Review that will restructure the Armed Forces for the third time in eight years.

Millionaire killed

A millionaire who was found dead in his fume-filled car a month after making his neighbour's son the beneficiary of his will was unlawfully killed, an inquest jury decided.

Drumcree anger

Brendan McKenna, leader of the Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition ruled out compromise in the Drumcree stand-off.

Reynolds retrial

Albert Reynolds, the former Irish Prime Minister, won the right to a retrial of his libel case after Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, found there were "misdirections" by the judge who had awarded him just 1p.

Nigeria alarm

Britain sent one of the country's top pathologists to Nigeria to conduct an autopsy on Chief Moshood Abiola, amid widespread rumours that he had been poisoned.

Calculators banned

Calculators will be banned for children under eight as part of a drive to ensure that three-quarters of pupils leaving primary school reach their expected level in mathematics.

Curry warning

Curry lovers are putting their health at risk eating meals overloaded with dangerous colourants by many restaurants, trading standards officers reported.

£4.2 million book

A first edition of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales fetched £4.2 million at Christie's last night, a world record for a printed book.

Buxom models

Doctors are calling for more images of "buxom wenches" in the media after fears that waif-like models may be contributing to an increase in anorexia.

Restaurant is served a bitter pill

Pharmacy, the trendy London restaurant, may be prosecuted by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. The "concept" restaurant, co-owned by Damien Hirst, Matthew Freud, Jonathan Kennedy and Liam Carson, faces a £1,000 fine under the 1968 Medicines Act for illegal use of a sign which can only be displayed by authorised chemists.



Lance Corporal Soyma North with other members of 5 Airborne Parachute Brigade during an exercise, Operation Anvil, in Norfolk

BUSINESS

British Airways: The European Union gave conditional approval to plans by British Airways and American Airlines to co-operate on transatlantic services.

Stock Exchanges: Frankfurt threw down the gauntlet to the London Stock Exchange by laying claim to run the settlement of trading for the newly proposed pan-European stock market.

Big ticket: Steven Norris, the former Tory transport minister, has made a profit of around £450,000 on his stake in Capital Citybus operating in London.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 6.2 to 6009.6. Sterling rose 0.1 to 105.7 after falling from \$1.6397 to \$1.6375 and rising from DM2.9715 to DM2.9766.

SPORT

World Cup: It is Holland's lot to be the object of admiration but never of envy. They would surely have won in 1974 and 1978, had they not had to face the hosts.

Golf: Jack Nicklaus will not play in the Open at Royal Birkdale next week because of a hip problem. He has competed in every Open since his first at Troon in 1962.

Cricket: Scotland's brief time in the sun came to a disappointing and chilly end after Derbyshire defeated them in the second round of the NatWest Trophy.

Bryant's Eye: In an age of instant replays and endless close-ups the amateur referee - armed only with his whistle, watch and notebook - seems a strangely time-warped figure.

ARTS

Poor spirits: The Chichester Festival revives David Hare's Church of England play Racing Demon but no amount of strong acting can overcome Benedict Nightingale's misgivings.

New movies: Jez Butterworth's cult play Mojo transfers to the screen with its flashy characters intact but now with added depth, more of a story and Harold Pinter.

Summer cracker: The Royal Ballet returns to the Coliseum for the first time in 25 years with a blockbuster season beginning with the classic La Bayadere.

Up country: Nashville star Trisha Yearwood sells records by the truckload in America and is all set to overcome traditional British resistance to country music.

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Febrile convulsions; sinusitis; pancreatic cancer; peanut allergy: why the Dutch are so tall.

Trial by media: In their first full interview the parents of JonBenet Ramsey deny that they murdered the six-year-old beauty queen in the basement of their house.

Post covered: Yet another book about Wordsworth? Close to 1,000 pages and covering only 37 years of his life? By an American professor? It had better be good.

Scientific feuds: Science claims to possess an objectivity that raises it above petty personal quarrels. Not so.

TRAVEL

Travel bargains: Stay in a Domesday Book farmhouse; listen to arias in Ljubljana; combine Cairo with Jerusalem.

THE PAPER

When the moment of reckoning came, Mr Abiola opted for principle and yesterday both he and his country paid the price.

LETTERS

Armed Forces: Commons reform; Alistair Campbell on Observer tape; Ulster; arts funding; clergy's pay; self-regulation; drunken detainees; Viagra and NHS.

OPINION

Sense on defence: The Defence Secretary deserves praise for the open-mindedness he has brought to this task.

HOPE FOR NIGERIA

The moment demands consistent outside support and careful diplomacy.

CZAR OF THE STREETS

The Government should be brave enough to admit that some people choose to sleep rough and remain "socially excluded".

COLUMNS

ANATOLE KALETSKY: We have wasted the past five years arguing about the wrong issue and in the process have distracted the public from the real dangers of EMU.

MARY ANN SIEGHART

The Government is stumbling, blind through lack of conviction, towards a new liberalism based on personal responsibility.

MAGNUS LINKLATER

The signals convey a picture of cronyism and privilege that is a million miles away from the new era of openness which Tony Blair promised.

PETER RIDDELL

Electoral and Euro cycles may not coincide. EMU enthusiasts and sceptics are right: the time for a public debate is now.

OUTLOOKS

Chief Moshood Abiola, Nigerian politician; Wing Commander "Dicky" Bird, pilot and explorer; Professor Alan Stuart, statistician.

LETTERS

Armed Forces: Commons reform; Alistair Campbell on Observer tape; Ulster; arts funding; clergy's pay; self-regulation; drunken detainees; Viagra and NHS.

TOURIST NUMBERS

12, 13, 21, 23, 33, 36. Bonus 14. The jackpot was £15 million.



British Airways and American Airlines executives discussing transatlantic services.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES: Getting the message across: which shows politicians want to appear on, and why.

EDUCATION

How Oxford and Cambridge plan to boost their state school intake.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,839

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Solution to Puzzle No 20838 and Times Two Crossword, page 52.

Weather and forecast information for various regions including UK, Europe, and the world.

Car reports by fax and other service information.

Hours of darkness and moon phase information.

Newspapers support recycling information.

Advertisement for Good Travel Magazine featuring a quote about blowing one's own trumpet.

Forecast and around Britain yesterday weather reports.

Abroad weather reports for various international locations.

High tides and lowest & highest tide information for various locations.

Large weather forecast section including a map of the UK, a table of high tides, and a table of lowest & highest tides.

Large advertisement for Nationwide giving £100,000 pay rise to chief executive and Mirror buying paper in London.

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY JULY 9 1998

RADIO & TV

Preview: They are America's most vilified couple but did they murder their daughter? Witness Special (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Joseph watches car designers driving up a blind alley. Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Sense on defence

The Defence Secretary deserves praise for the open-mindedness he has brought to this task. Page 2

Hope for Nigeria

The moment demands consistent outside support and careful diplomacy. Page 2

Czar of the streets

The Government should be brave enough to admit that some people choose to sleep rough and remain socially excluded. Page 2

COLUMNS

ANATOLE KALETSKY

We have wasted the past five years arguing about the wrong issue and in the process have distracted the public from the real dangers of EMU. Page 22

MARY ANN SIEGHART

The Government is submitting blind through lack of conviction towards a new liberalism based on personal responsibility. Page 22

MAGNUS LINKLATER

The British convey a picture of a nation that has lost its way from the security of the past to the uncertainty of the future. Page 22

PETER RIDDELL

The British convey a picture of a nation that has lost its way from the security of the past to the uncertainty of the future. Page 22

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ARTS Mojo rising: a hit play is now a fine film PAGES 36-39



SPORT Ullrich ready to pull his weight once more PAGES 43-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft THURSDAY JULY 9 1998

EU sets terms on transatlantic tie-up

BA-American alliance will cost 267 slots

By JON ASHWORTH AND CHARLES BREMNER

BRITISH AIRWAYS and American Airlines will have to surrender 267 slots at London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports — the equivalent of about 20 daily round-trip flights — under draft conditions laid down by competition authorities in Brussels.

The carriers will also have to reduce frequencies on routes between London and American's three main US hubs — Miami, Chicago and Dallas/Fort Worth — during the first six months of the alliance. They face restrictions on frequent-flyer programmes and ticketing practices, and will not be compensated for slots.

But many issues remain unresolved. The final word on the deal is now expected in September, allowing BA and American to co-ordinate timetables for launch next summer. Delays could push it back to the end of next year.

Parties have 30 days to respond. The full 140-page text from Brussels is due next week, and further analysis is expected from the Office of Fair Trading, which originally called for BA and American to surrender 168 slots at Heathrow. The US Department of Transportation (DoT) is likely to deliver its ruling in the

autumn. US and UK officials have separately to negotiate a new "open skies" treaty, allowing US carriers access to Heathrow. British carriers could win increased access to the heavily protected US domestic market.

Brussels has been studying the alliance in parallel with the Department of Trade and Industry, which yesterday signalled its conditional approval. Margaret Beckett, Board of Trade President, said: "This is an important alliance which... potentially would bring significant benefits to consumers. Our task, as competition authorities, is to ensure that the alliance does not have anti-competitive effects which work to the detriment of consumers."

Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, said there was no question of allowing BA-American to hand over slots in phases, as the airlines had suggested. There would be no financial compensation, although BA intends to continue lobbying on this point. BA and American together operate about 60 per cent of flights between the UK and America.

Bob Aytling, the BA chief executive, described developments as "positive", but said: "Some of the terms being

proposed by Brussels are too harsh and would penalise the airline and Britain unfairly. Every lost slot means lost flights, lost business, lost service for customers."

Don Carty, chairman of American, said an acceptable regulatory package now appeared more likely.

Virgin Atlantic said the conditions fell far short of what was required. A spokesman added: "This monopolistic merger has no benefit for the consumer." The Consumers Association agreed, saying fares would rise.

BA and American claim opening Heathrow to competition will benefit consumers, but authorities are worried about BA-American's pulling power with big corporate accounts and travel agents.

Brussels also published its preliminary ruling on the rival Star Alliance, led by Lufthansa and United Airlines, calling on the carriers to reduce Frankfurt to Washington/Chicago flights, surrender slots, curtail frequent-flyer programmes, and limit corporate discounts and incentives paid to travel agents. United has filed a complaint against the EU with the DoT in Washington.

Commentary, page 29

Nationwide gives £102,000 pay rise to chief executive

By SUSAN EMMETT

THE NATIONWIDE, which is fighting to remain mutual, yesterday revealed that Brian Davis, its chief executive, had enjoyed a rise in pay from £397,000 to £499,000 in the year to April 4.

The news comes just two weeks before members vote on whether Britain's largest building society should become a bank.

The Nationwide said that conversion would mean more remuneration and share options for the chief executive but that Mr Davis had turned his back on that.

Andrew Muir, a pro-conversion candidate who is standing for election to the board, said the present board was out of touch and that he felt confident members would vote for conversion. Mr Muir said that, as a bank, the Nationwide would be more accountable because the board would be under the scrutiny of its shareholders.

The recruitment consultant, who mounted his challenge in October because he was unhappy with the way the society had conducted the last vote, said he was positive that he would be elected and that the vote would swing by 70 per cent in favour of a conversion. The society's annual meeting is on July 23 and postal votes are due in on July 21. Members would gain windfall payments of about £2,000 if the conversion takes place.

Like many members, Mr Muir is unhappy with the way that the voting forms are set out but he said he would not be mounting a legal challenge if the vote swings against him.

Mr Muir said that he has 100 supporters monitoring the advice given by Nationwide staff at its branches and that he would consider asking for a re-vote if his "survey" reveals that too many cashiers are seen to be giving biased advice.

Court clears RAC to sell division

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE High Court yesterday cleared the RAC's plan to sell its motoring and breakdown division to Candant, the American leisure group that owns Green Flag.

The deal to sell off the breakdown division for £450 million will provide windfalls of about £35,000 to the 12,000 full members of the RAC. Associate members who pay annual subscriptions for the breakdown services will receive no payment.

Mr Justice Neuberger rejected opposition from a number of groups who will not benefit, including overseas members, retired members who said they were not given prior notice of the pending reorganisation and members who resigned from the club but wanted to take up the option of rejoining within three years.

He also dismissed objections from businessman Christopher Whitney, who is one of the RAC's 25 million subscribers to the breakdown service.

City Diary, page 31



Steven Norris profitably leaves the car behind

Norris turns bus company stake into £450,000 profit

STEVEN NORRIS, the former Tory Transport Minister, has made a profit of about £450,000 on his near-4 per cent stake in Capital Citybus which operates local bus services in East London (Times Day writes).

FirstGroup, the UK's largest bus operator, has acquired Capital Citybus for a total of £24.1 million. Mr Norris became non-executive chairman of Citybus in January 1997 and paid just £50,000 for his shares.

The takeover values Mr Norris's stake at £500,000. Brendan Glyde and Leon Daniels, joint managing directors of Citybus, get £5.3 million in cash and FirstGroup shares in respect of their 38 per cent stake. Last year Citybus made a profit of £1 million on £28 million turnover.

Moir Lockhead, chief executive of FirstGroup, said £25 million will be spent on 250 new buses. FirstGroup shares rose 6p to a new high of 444½p. Commentary, page 29

Frankfurt in challenge to London over joint market

By RICHARD MILES

JUST a day after their historic agreement, Frankfurt threw down the gauntlet to London by laying claim to control of the settlement of stocks in the embryonic pan-European stock market.

Rolf Breuer, president of Deutsche Börse, yesterday put down a clear marker for Frankfurt by asserting that the German share settlement system would support the proposed common European trading platform.

Speaking at an international finance conference, Mr Breuer said trading would initially be settled on the two countries' own systems, but he could foresee the German system would eventually be adopted for both.

His comments surprised CrestCo, the company that controls the UK share settlement system, given that it has been co-operating with Frankfurt for more than a year over the creation of a cross-border settlement network.

CrestCo believes its technology is as good as, if not superior to, the systems of Deutsche Börse. Clearing, a subsidiary of the Frankfurt exchange, CrestCo, a distinct company from the London Stock Exchange with about 400 participating members, aims to create a single access point for settlement in European stocks by early 2000.

The London Stock Exchange said the project board of the 50-50 venture announced earlier this week would consider settlement issues at some point. A spokesman emphasised that the only timeframe set for Tuesday's alliance was common trading in the two countries' stock by January.

City dealers say settlement will be critical to the success of London and Frankfurt's joint ambition to build a pan-European stock market for some 300 blue-chip shares.

Commentary, page 29 Graham Searjeant, page 31

Economists split on rate forecast

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England is today set to make its toughest interest rate decision since gaining independence with the City fearful that another rise could push the whole economy into recession.

Analysts regard the decision as too close to call — despite the dire warnings about the overall health of the economy — because inflationary pressures remain uncomfortably strong.

The City has also become increasingly uncertain about the Bank's approach to monetary policy after the unexpected quarter-point rise to 7.5 per cent last month.

A recent Reuter poll of economists showed that 43 per cent expected a rise while 57 per cent anticipated no change in rates this month.

The main economic data over the past month has revealed the twin-track nature of the economy. High earnings growth and service-sector inflation has contrasted with a series of dismal manufacturing sector surveys.

New data published yesterday only served to highlight the Bank's interest rate dilemma. The BDO monthly business trends indices — a summary of all the surveys published in the last month, revealed that business sentiment is dropping sharply but that wage increases are still adding to inflationary pressures.

A separate report from the Engineering Employers' Federation showed the sector

heading further into recession with every indicator at its lowest level since the survey began in 1994. The pound closed around half a pfering up at DM2.9768, while the FTSE 100 closed up just 6.2 at 6,009.6.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES table with columns for FTSE 100, FTSE All share, Nikkei, Dow Jones, S&P Composite and their respective values and changes.

US RATE table with columns for Federal Funds, Long Bond, Life long gilt, Yield and their respective rates.

LONDON MONEY table with columns for 3-mth Interbank, Life long gilt, future (Sep) and their respective rates.

STERLING table with columns for New York, London, DM, FRF, SF, Yen, £ Index and their respective values.

DOLLAR table with columns for London, DM, FRF, SF, Yen, £ Index and their respective values.

TOKYO table with columns for Tokyo close Yen and their respective values.

NORTH SEA OIL table with columns for Brent 15-day (Sep) and their respective values.

GOLD table with columns for London close and their respective values.

French anger, page 28

Defence contract

The Ministry of Defence is to develop an "invisible" tank with the US, using stealth aircraft technology to gather information secretly on the battlefield. US and UK orders, worth about £3 billion, will be contested between a consortium including British Aerospace, Lockheed Martin, Vickers and Shorts, and a rival team featuring GEC, GKN and Raytheon.

Mirror buys regional paper in Londonderry

By CHRIS AYRES

MIRROR GROUP, the newspaper publisher that owns The Mirror and LIVE TV, yesterday bought The Derry Journal in Northern Ireland for £18.25 million.

The group denied that there would be any conflict in owning the nationalist Derry Journal — which also produces the Donegal Democrat and the Donegal People's Press in the Republic — and the Unionist Belfast News Letter. Shares in the Mirror Group fell 1½p to 225½p. John Allwood, Mirror

Group's regional newspapers director, said: "There is no reason why it should create problems. We would not interfere with the editorial content." The company dismissed concern that readers of the Journal would be uneasy with David Montgomery, the staunchly Unionist chief executive of the Mirror Group, running their newspaper.

The deal is subject to the approval of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Republic's competition authorities. It is thought that the

Mirror Group's market share in Northern Ireland will remain in single figures. The profitable Journal — which had sales of about £6 million last year — was sold by the McCarroll family, whose members are leaving the board. The management headed by Jean Long remains. Mirror Group said the acquisition fitted its strategy of complementing its national titles with strong regional titles.

City Diary, page 31

Retailers spurn banks' plan for new credit card

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND LIZANNE ROSE

BRITAIN'S largest retailers yesterday said they will refuse to accept the new generation of credit and debit cards that is due to be launched by banks early next year.

The British Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of the retail trade, said yesterday that members will not co-operate with the roll-out of "chip cards". Computer chips embedded in the cards will store a huge amount of data and are intended to replace the current 104 million credit, debit and

cash cards now in use that rely on magnetic strips. Banks say the cards, on trial for the past three and a half years, provide more security against fraud. But Ann Grain of the BRC said that the banks had refused to discuss the costs to retailers of installing new equipment to read the computer chips in the cards.

"We are not saying it is not a good idea, but we are saying to the banks, 'come and talk to us about the costs', she said. Retailers are spending heavily to prepare tills and other

equipment for the launch of the euro, and to guard against the so-called millennium bug. Marks & Spencer, Britain's largest retailer, is fitting a new till system, to accept a range of currencies, at a cost of £100 million.

All main high street banks and building societies are involved in the plan to launch the new cards. So that the cards can be used abroad, they will continue to carry a magnetic strip as well as the chip. Commentary, page 29

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France views comment on Eurofighter as challenge

BY ADAM SAGE AND ADAM JONES

A SUGGESTION by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, that the Eurofighter project could be the key to consolidation of the European military aircraft industry, has caused anger in France.

Mr Robertson said on Monday that the £42 billion Eurofighter project was the "kernel of a future military aircraft company". Eurofighter, based in Munich, is owned by British Aerospace, Casa of Spain, DASA of Germany and Alenia of Italy. France is not involved and Dassault, the Paris-based group, makes the rival Rafale fighter plane.

A French Defence Ministry source yesterday described the British position as a direct challenge to France's desire to place the Airbus consortium at the heart of a single European aircraft company.

Mr Robertson's comment, which took some in the UK aerospace industry unawares, was also seen as a way of increasing pressure on Paris to reduce its presence in the defence industry.

The French Defence Minis-

try source said Mr Robertson's comment was a "spanner in the works". The source added: "He is trying to put us under pressure."

La Tribune, the daily newspaper, said that, despite the recent privatisation of the defence-electronics group, Thomson-CSF, and the pledge to sell a 30 per cent stake in Aerospatiale, "France is singled out because the state remains the principal shareholder in the big arms and aerospace firms."

Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, attempted to play down the row, but did nothing to hide the difficulties that are hanging over Airbus's transformation into a limited company. "It is a complicated discussion," he said.

Airbus will be transformed into a limited company next year. The French firm, Aerospatiale, which will remain under state control despite partial privatisation this autumn, holds a 37.9 per cent stake in Airbus.

The other partners are British Aerospace, DASA and Casa.



David Fletcher, left, chairman, and George Howard, managing director, of Fletcher King, the property and construction services group, in the Serpentine Gallery, London, which they refurbished. The company raised pre-tax profits from £273,000 to £404,000 on sales up 25 per cent to £5.7 million in the year to April 30. Earnings increased 42 per cent to 3.4p and the total dividend 48 per cent to 2.6p. The company said increased market penetration had given profit advances across all divisions

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tighter EU rules for British banks

BRITISH banks will have to place up to 2.5 per cent of their deposits with the European Central Bank if the British Government decides to join the single currency. The new controversial minimum reserve rules are designed to stabilise European money market rates and were unveiled yesterday by Wim Duisenberg, the President of the European Central Bank, but initially affect only banks in the 11 European countries which have agreed to adopt monetary union. Current British rules are much laxer, requiring banks to set aside just 0.15 per cent of their deposits as a minimum reserve, according to William Mason, director of the British Bankers' Association.

Mr Mason said that once the UK had joined the European Monetary Union, the new rules would in practice have no economic impact. "All this does is put grit in the system and affect the lending decisions of banks," he said. The European Central Bank's minimum reserve rules aim to harmonise the treatment of banks' solvency across the European continent. Banks are unable to use the money for lending, but they will receive interest on the funds at or near the prevailing market rate.

Japan poses tax doubts

FINANCIAL markets were left unimpressed yesterday after the Japanese Prime Minister promised tax cuts but failed to give any indication of whether they would be permanent, how they would be funded and what size of cut was envisaged. The yen came under pressure after Ryutaro Hashimoto said he wanted cuts as part of a permanent tax system overhaul. He said that he hoped to implement the tax cuts next year. The Japanese currency dropped to below ¥140, inching back by late European trading to ¥139.60.

Torotrak drives up BTG

SHARES in BTG, formerly the state-owned British Technology Group, jumped 60p to 897½p as terms of the demerger of Torotrak, its car transmission systems company, were announced. BTG shareholders will receive one demerger share for each share held. Torotrak shareholders will then be offered five rights issue shares for every 29 held to raise around £50 million. BTG, now an intellectual property rights group, has rights to more than 10,000 patented inventions, with emphasis on biotechnology and electronics.

CVC raises £1.8bn fund

CVC CAPITAL PARTNERS, the venture capitalist, has raised £1.8 billion for investment in management buyouts and buy-ins. CVC, which recently backed the £1 billion buyout of Kappa Packaging, the Dutch packaging group, said that its latest fund was the largest raised to date for pan-European investment. CVC was founded in 1981 as the private equity arm of Citicorp and became independent in 1993. Since 1981 it has bought 174 companies for a total of £13.2 billion.

PPL shares at new low

PPL THERAPEUTICS, the drug development company best known for its involvement with Dolly the sheep, slipped to a new low of 167½p yesterday after it reported encouraging but not statistically significant results from a phase 2 study of its cystic fibrosis treatment. Because of respiratory problems, usable results were obtained from only 22 patients that had taken the alpha-1-antitrypsin protein that PPL produced in sheep. Further trials are planned in both the UK and the US. Excitement over Dolly helped shares top 550p last year.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.75	2.57
Austria Sch	21.91	20.25
Belgium Fr	94.46	95.51
Canada \$	2.238	2.348
Cyprus Cyp	0.914	0.842
Denmark Kr	11.81	11.02
Egypt Pound	5.79	5.18
Finland Mkk	8.59	8.54
France Fr	10.44	10.62
Germany Dm	3.14	2.82
Greece Dr	323	484
Hong Kong \$	13.51	12.31
Iceland	130	110
Ireland Pt	1.24	1.15
Israel Shk	6.38	5.72
Italy Lira	3105	2989
Japan Yen	243.42	228.93
Malta	0.681	0.622
Netherlands Gld	3.542	3.247
New Zealand \$	3.30	3.06
Norway Kr	13.22	12.26
Portugal Esc	316.64	294.81
S Africa Rd	10.72	9.77
Spain Pta	208.77	244.98
Sweden Kr	14.00	12.90
Switzerland Fr	2.35	2.43
Turkey Lira	453789	428311
USA \$	1.744	1.601

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Hanson builds on its US aggregates

BY ADAM JONES

SHARES in Hanson, the former conglomerate that is now focused on building materials, rose 1½p to 371½p yesterday after a confident trading update.

However, it was cautious about the prospects for the UK housing market and reported that its UK brick operations lost a small amount of market share so prices could go up.

Andrew Dougal, chief executive, said profits in the first half of 1998 were "well up" on the same period in 1997. The strong first half was driven by the performance of Coner-

stone, the US aggregates arm, which has benefited from US construction activity.

Hanson said it may buy more US businesses. Earlier this year, it bought Fenton, a US aggregates producer, for £51 million. Hanson said it has net cash of £150 million and rising.

Hanson said it may pay a lump sum to reinsurers to take on the cost of clearing up polluted sites in the US. It has made a provision of £404 million.

EU agrees \$40bn merger

THE European Commission agreed the controversial \$40 billion WorldCom-MCI merger yesterday (Oliver August writes). WorldCom is now set to give back \$7 billion of BT's money in return for its 20 per cent MCI stake.

The seven-month long inquiry into the deal's effect on competition in the long-distance phone market was brought to an end by a unanimous vote after WorldCom and MCI agreed to sell off all MCI Internet assets.

Both companies are preparing for a completion of the merger in late summer. They still have to wait for approval from US regulators.

Microsoft founder goes to Hollywood

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

PAUL ALLEN, the Microsoft co-founder and third richest American, is set to become the biggest shareholder in DreamWorks, the studio set up by Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg. The three film moguls own 22 per cent stakes each and Mr Allen will own 24 per cent, worth about \$600 million (£370 million).

Mr Allen is buying DreamWorks shares from Korean investors affected by both the Asian financial crisis and the company's lack of success. The film, television and record

studio has not had a hit in the four years of its existence.

This will hardly worry Mr Allen who has \$21 billion to play with. In 1975, he dropped out of Washington State University to found Microsoft with fellow college drop-out Bill Gates. Mr Allen retired in 1983 after a power struggle with the more dominant Mr Gates but he retained his Microsoft shares.

In the Eighties he dabbled in various Silicon Valley start-up ventures but, without his partner, failed to replicate Microsoft's success.

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AN EXCLUSIVE WORLD CUP GAME THE TIMES

PLAY TEAM CHECK FOR THE SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL

CASH PRIZES AND CARS WORTH £45,000 TO BE WON

ITV Play The Times Chance 1 and Chance 2 games on your new gamecard for the chance to win up to £5,000 and a Vauxhall Vectra Arctic when you reveal three identical symbols. There is also a further £5,000 in cash and a Frontera Estate Transglobe to be won by playing the ITV/Vauxhall Team Check game.

WEEK 4 WINNERS - Mrs L. Cooper, Nailsea, Bristol, won a Vauxhall Astra and £1,250. Mr E. Pollock, Herne Bay, Kent, Mrs H. Oughnon, Hitchin, Herts and Mr R. Powell-Chandler of Corse, Lawn, Gloucestershire, each won £1,250.

HOW TO PLAY THE TIMES GAME
DESKMATES 12
BECKHAM 9
SCHEMICH 1

This week we will print 16 names of World Cup 98 players for The Times Chance 1 and Chance 2 games on your new card. The fourth set of names appears above. If any of the names match those on your Chance 1 or Chance 2 cards scratch them off. If you have revealed three identical symbols today on either the Chance 1 game or the Chance 2 game you have won a share of this week's Times/Sunday Times £25,000 prize and must make a claim on the Team Check hotline 0191-681 1248 before 3pm today. By making a successful claim you will be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win a Vauxhall Vectra Arctic.

HOW TO PLAY THE ITV GAME WITH VAUXHALL
TUNE IN TO TEN ON SATURDAY

Tune in to WORLD CUP SPECIAL on Saturday between 2.20pm and 3.20pm and ITV's coverage of the 2000 F. 4TH PLACE PLAY-OFF at 7.45pm, for your Team Check numbers for this week's ITV/Vauxhall game on your card. At the beginning and the end of the commercial break in these programmes you will see Vauxhall sponsorship clips. **SCRATCH EACH CLIP A WHITE TEAM CHECK NUMBER WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE TOP LEFT-HAND CORNER OF THE SCREEN.** If any of the highlighted numbers match a number on this week's ITV/Vauxhall game on your card, scratch them off. If you reveal three identical symbols you have won a share of the ITV/Vauxhall £5,000 Team Check prize and must call the claims line between 9.30am and 5pm next Monday. Successful claims will be entered into the ITV/Vauxhall prize draw to win a Frontera Estate Transglobe.

REVEAL THREE IDENTICAL SYMBOLS TO WIN A PRIZE

DON'T SCRATCH UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THE RULES

VAUXHALL CARS WORTH £35,000 TO BE WON

© Frontera Estate Transglobe © Vectra Arctic

Vauxhall Motors, an official sponsor of World Cup 98 and holder of ITV's coverage of the tournament, has two Vauxhall cars worth more than £25,000 to be won this week. The prizes include 100 warranty, number plates and road tax. The week starts on 11th July. Arctic and a five-door Frontera Estate Transglobe to be won. Insurance is the responsibility of the winners. For information about the Vauxhall range and details of your nearest dealer call 0345 400 000. www.vauxhall.com

MORE VAUXHALL NUMBERS WILL BE BROADCAST ON ITV ON SATURDAY

مكتبة من الأهل

If you can't beat them, join them



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

A visionary alliance has been announced between the London and German stock exchanges to set up a common market in the leading European equity shares. Well done. How exciting. Or is it?

A trip down memory lane reminds us that London set up a screen-based market in foreign stocks 13 years ago, a year before its Big Bang domestic trading changes. Soon, 600 shares were traded on Seaq International, which handled much of the American and Far East trade in continental stocks. In 1986 Sir Nicholas Goodison, then chairman of the London Stock Exchange, heralded the march towards "a worldwide electronic marketplace".

By then, Seaq International had forged a pioneering intercontinental satellite link with America's Nasdaq market. That was 13 years before Nasdaq's recent link to Frankfurt, which was thought such a dire threat to London before Tuesday's deal.

By the early 1990s, London was trading more foreign than domes-

tic shares, much to the chagrin of the Paris bourse and others who claimed their business was being poached. London was becoming as dominant in international equities as in currency trading.

Across the Channel, European directives were seen as a means to shackle Seaq International on spurious regulatory grounds. In Germany, where there was not even one national exchange, leading bankers took the continued dominance of London for granted, but hoped in compensation to make Frankfurt home to the European Central Bank.

As soon as monetary union was mooted, however, the idea of one market for the main European shares took off. The only question was whether London would bring the continentals into its orbit or Frankfurt, Paris, Milan *et al* would get together to counter the common threat of London.

In 1994, when John Kemp-Welch became chairman of the London exchange, this had become the key issue. The best solution was for London to persuade continental bourses to join a single, low-cost heavily traded market under its leadership.

Four years later, it was left to the German bourse to approach London and negotiate a 50-50 joint venture with a market more than twice its size. The by-now monolithic German bourse has made it clear that it will provide the trade settlement system, leaving the UK's independent set-up a trifle crestfallen. If other exchanges join, as is hoped, it is a fair bet that London's role will be squeezed again and that Paris will exact humiliating concessions.

How did this happen? The London exchange may have been paralysed by the impact of a series of home-grown disasters, includ-

ing the Taurus settlement fiasco and a rapid turnover of executives. Its attention and resources were certainly distracted by nipping regulatory interference that demanded constant changes of rules and entangled technical advances. Whatever the reason, the exchange fell into the same trap that the country has fallen into over joining the euro. Too much time

has been spent agonising over what to do, instead of making a decision and putting maximum effort behind it. London surely could have promoted Seaq International and its developments so energetically and forcefully that it would have taken over the role of pan-European exchange willy-nilly. If the decision was for co-operation, then even British diplomacy could not have prevented a joint market being up and running long ago.

As it is, the Anglo-German alliance is no more than a project. As such it is the latest in a long line of links between all manner of stock and derivatives markets that have temporarily caused a flutter of excitement in the financial dovecotes. Most have fizzled out or quietly been unwound.

London's stock exchange fathers were scarred by the Taurus project, which brilliantly took ev-

ery contingency on board but was in consequence too heavy for flight. So they have opted to put the London and Frankfurt electronic trading noticeboards together in time for euro-day and to leave all the tricky things for later.

The planning principle seems to be no more than where there's a will there's a way. With luck it may work. A pan-European equity market, for 500 stocks rather than the mooted 300, will certainly be needed by fund managers, who will sensibly invest in euroland rather than its regional nations. A market will therefore emerge one way or another, to some degree at London's expense. This way, at least, London should hold on to the business from investors and securities houses that prefer to speak English to French or German.

Perhaps the only certainty in this Anglo-German treaty is that it will further undermine Life.

London's world-beating but wholly unconnected derivatives market. Life has at least made the big decision, in its case to go it alone and try to beat off continental opposition. After gallant but ultimately lightweight French attacks, its main challenge has come from the German derivatives exchange.

The DTB has already repatriated business in German bonds from London, denting Life's psyche of invincibility. It has formed an alliance with the French and Swiss exchanges, involving joint contracts based on a quiet separate pan-European share index than those traded on Life. The DTB is also in a position to contend leadership in futures and options contracts linked to the euro.

The crucial difference is that the DTB is an integral part of the monolithic German bourse, while the London Stock Exchange did not even tell Life what it was doing, let alone consult it during negotiations. Had the boot been on the other foot, consultation would doubtless have been just as silent. As we British say, it's fun to lose.

Fujimori out to realise his dream of pushing Peru into the millennium

Business booms for new breed of financial sleuths

It was a moment to savour. As Alberto Fujimori, the Peruvian President, began his keynote address to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) conference on investment in Peru, one particular UK company was probably foremost on his mind.

British Airways, whose chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, is also President of the CBI, refuses to provide direct flights from London to Lima. The last direct link was abandoned by British Caledonian during the Falklands war.

BA claims there is simply not enough traffic. UK travel agents say hundreds more UK tourists would visit Peru each year if only the air link was better. As it stands, the best route for tourists can make use of it via Amsterdam.

The President himself knows what such a trip entails. His 20-hour flight to London was routed via Bahia in Brazil and the Canary Islands. Within a matter of hours he was on his feet before an audience of hundreds of UK business people, selling the merits of his country. Despite Mr Fujimori's enduring optimism, it is not always an easy task.

Even as he addressed the CBI-sponsored event, a decision was being taken that will greatly shape the future of investment in Peru and elsewhere in Latin America. While Peru values tourism as a source of income, the future lies with the exploitation of its vast natural resources. Thus, with the board of Shell meeting yesterday to decide whether to proceed with the giant Camisea gas development in the Peruvian jungle, there was a great deal at stake during Mr Fujimori's first official visit to the UK.



Alberto Fujimori, on his first official visit, has left uncertainty at home to pitch the potential of Peru to UK business leaders

Camisea, one of the largest reserves of its kind in the world, will require an initial investment of \$3 billion (£1.8 billion), eventually rising to an estimated \$8 billion. The project requires a 500 kilometre pipeline across the Andes, linking the jungle with the coast. If it goes ahead, Peru believes, the floodgates will open to other big investments. If Shell withdraws, questions will inevitably be asked about Mr Fujimori's stewardship of the country.

The President's last British visit, in February 1997, was in a private capacity but attracted much wider attention. This was February 1997, during a siege at the Japanese embassy in Lima. Despite extraordinary international pressure, Mr Fujimori refused to negotiate for the release of hostages. Instead, the siege was brought to a dramatic end when Peruvian troops stormed the embassy building via a secret tunnel. It was an extraordinary triumph for the President.

Despite scheduled meetings with Tony Blair and the Queen, this time the media interest is far less intense. However, the pressure on the Peruvian delegation should not be underestimated. Today Mr Fujimori's team is joined by Jorge Baca, the economy minister, who will meet Gordon Brown and lead the delegation in briefings with merchant banks in the City.



Martin Barrow, meets an enthusiastic Peruvian leader anxious to encourage investment from Britain

Mr Baca is accompanied by prominent Lima bankers and industrialists. These include Walker Plaza, whose Cosapi is one of the main Camisea contractors, and Augusto Felipe Wiese, of Banco Wiese, a leading private bank.

Mr Wiese's presence is particularly poignant, given that his bank was at the heart of a botched attempt by Alan Garcia, Mr Fujimori's predecessor, to re-nationalise the banking sector in the late 1980s. At that stage Peru was widely discredited, having declared a unilateral moratorium on the repayment of international

debt. The economy was in chaos and Mr Garcia's government was losing a war with guerrillas from the extreme Shining Path movement.

It was against this background that Mr Fujimori, a virtually unknown agronomist with no political experience, emerged as the victor in presidential elections in 1990, against the prominent novelist Mario Vargas Llosa. Mr Fujimori won a second term of office in 1995 and, controversially, is expected to seek an unprecedented third term.

Peru is divided. Some resent the President's autocratic style

and feel the time is approaching for him to step down. Others are concerned at the apparent lack of a successor. With no recognised party behind him — his government is made up largely of business people and academics — there is no obvious successor.

It is this uncertainty that worries international investors. Mr Fujimori expects to continue to wield significant influence for many years. "Whatever happens in 2000 [election year] our achievements will not be for the short term. Look at what we have achieved. We have created stability... I do not want to see my hard work of the past 10 years destroyed."

Peru has enjoyed strong economic growth since the mid-1990s, achieving GDP growth of 7.4 per cent in 1997. In the current year the forecast is for growth of 4 per cent, revised down from an initial 6 per cent.

mainly because of the adverse effects of the El Nino weather pattern which disrupted the important fishing industry.

Mr Fujimori believes Peru has struck the right balance in fiscal incentives to encourage wider overseas investment in the country. Surprisingly perhaps, Britain is the third largest investor after America and Spain, committing \$1.8 billion to the country in 1997.

Mr Fujimori, who met Baroness Thatcher during his last visit, has embraced privatisation as a way to modernise Peru. Spain's Telefonica has a stake in the main telephone company, for example. Mr Fujimori believes foreign investors will be enthusiastic about the next stage, with concessions in the main ports and airports being offered. He believes there are opportunities for the UK in financial services, with a prosperous middle class making greater provision for life assurance and pensions.

One man not on the plane to London was Javier Valle Riestra, Mr Fujimori's new Prime Minister. A career politician from Mr Garcia's party, Mr Valle Riestra was the President's surprise choice and has already proved outspoken against Mr Fujimori's policies, including his re-election campaign. Mr Valle Riestra predicts he will last no more than six months in the post.

In his hotel suite in London, Mr Fujimori smiles at the prospect. "If he [Mr Valle Riestra] comes up with one or two more good ideas, we'll extend it another three months, and so on." What happens otherwise is well understood. UK businesses considering an investment in Peru must learn quickly how to read the political tea leaves.

In January 1980, Bishop Investigations, a London international firm, opened a file on the scuttling of the supertanker *Salem*, which went down off Senegal in West Africa. Inspired detective work revealed that a consignment of Kuwaiti crude oil destined for Sicily had been stolen and discharged at Durban, breaking the South African oil embargo. The evidence went down with the ship. Bishop exposed a case of enormous political significance, and spared *Salem's* insurers a huge pay-out.

Bishop bought itself out from Merrett Holdings in December 1996 and now another of London's reclusive breed of financial sleuths is set to go the same way. Network International, part of Hambros Investment Group, is rumoured to be on the block, following its parent's sale to Investec, the South African financial group.

Fred Hohler, the former diplomat and BZW corporate financier who runs Network, declined to comment on reports. Assignments range from vetting potential employees to performing due diligence on behalf of companies pursuing deals in Russia or other emerging economies. Network runs one of the UK's biggest forensic laboratories, enhancing images from London Underground security tapes and bank surveillance videos.

Network assists firms with electronic counter-measures — debugging for instance — and advises Third World governments on collecting unpaid tax. Other big players include Kroll Associates, re-membered for its revelations

about Lord White's racehorses during Hanson's failed bid for ICI, and Risk Advisory Group, formed as a break-away from Kroll in London. Kroll led the search for assets stolen from Saddam Hussein in the aftermath of the Gulf War. Control Risks, known for its political risk assessment of countries, acted for the Co-operative Bank during last year's failed punt by Andrew Regan.

Bishop International is best known for its work on the Brinks Mat bullion robbery in 1983, in which three tonnes of gold worth £26 million was stolen from the Brinks Mat depot near Heathrow. Bishop was appointed by the underwriters to assist the police. Gold worth in excess of £24 million was recovered. Bishop handles insurance and financial investigations, and performs due diligence on companies' prospective clients and joint venture partners.

Control Risks was retained by Peter Davis, the former lottery regulator, to run checks on prospective bidders for the National Lottery licence. The firm divides its time between fraud prevention and investigation in emerging economies, and Russia in particular. John Conyngham, who heads the investigations side, said: "The amount of information available in Russia is very limited. It's high-risk, and you need to do as much homework as possible."

The firms employ former policemen, Customs officials, accountants, lawyers and investigative journalists.

JON ASHWORTH

Fame at last

THE latest edition of *International Who's Who* thumps on to my desk. Apparently it is not related to *Who's Who*, but I'll let that pass. However, the weighty tome does feature a whole host of new names to enthral and excite readers.

It seems that more than two decades after becoming a government adviser, Gavin Davies is finally somebody. This is no doubt related to the flotation of Goldman Sachs, which should give the bearded economist and swimming pool aficionado enough money to buy his beloved Southampton Football Club and still have change for the

bus. Other "new" faces include Sir Clive Thompson, of Rentokil Initial; Sir Alistair Grant, of Bank of Scotland; and Adair Turner, of the CBI. My favourite entry comes from Charles Goodhart, who is currently mulling over whether interest rates should be raised again. His hobbies include sheep farming.



Goodhart: counting sheep and economic numbers

Big quarry

THERE were wild celebrations at Farmington Natural Stone, a quarrying company near Cheltenham with a history stretching back to Roman times. Its managing director, Martin Robins, recently received a letter from one of those smartypants information companies, Business Ratio Plus (their italics), promising "financial intelligence on a key competitor". The rival was Rio Tinto, whose annual sales of £4.7 billion are over 1,000 times more than those of Farmington. "I was so amazed to find that I am the MD of a multinational mining corporation that I asked the chairman for a pay rise," Mr Robins tells me. "I hope Business Ratio Plus sent a report on us to Rio Tinto. It will have them quaking in their boots."



Pre-emptive

THE evidence that National Savings will be privatised is gathering. The organisation recently recruited a new finance director — one Vince Raimondo, who came from the Jimmy Young programme but from an arm of

Fidelity Investments. He replaced Maurice Nicholls who, before he retired, was paid £58,000 a year. Mr Raimondo is picking up more than £83,000 a year, thank you very much, on a five-year contract. National Savings says this is to be competitive with the private sector etc, but it looks as if it is getting its post-privatisation pay rise in early.

WORRIES of a loyalist takeover of the Catholic-leaning Derry Journal can be dashed. Although the Mirror Group's chief executive, David Montgomery, is a well-known Protestant, I can reveal that the Mirror's board boasts at least one Catholic: and John Allwood, who runs the regional newspaper side and so will effectively be the publisher, tells me he is an atheist "or something like that".

Bridge work

SIR Norman Foster must be a big fan of Hong Kong. Having returned from the opening of the airport he designed at Chek Lap Kok, he has learnt that HSBC is to donate £3 million towards his project to build a footbridge across the Thames. The Millennium Bridge will be the first new above-water crossing of the Thames since Tower Bridge in 1894. It appears that the bankers were so impressed with Sir

Norman's work on their much-derided headquarters in Hong Kong that they thought he was worth a punt.

Early strike

SOME people put their children's names down for Eton when they are born, but David Kershaw, one of the partners of M&C Saatchi, has gone one better. A season ticket holder at Arsenal, he noticed the seat next to him in the Upper West Stand was coming free. He wrote to the club asking if he could take up that place so he could bring his son. Arsenal has just told him yes. The only catch is that Master Kershaw is not yet two years old.



"It's not the same since they lost their landing slots"

Austin Reed

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WHILE STOCKS LAST

Alan McGee, the maverick head of Creation Records, famously ran his business for ten years before hiring an accountant. This small oversight — although typical of the tycoon who discovered Oasis and once suffered a drug-induced nervous breakdown — almost cost him his business in the late 1980s. It would surely guarantee failure in the computer-driven 1990s.

When entrepreneurs set up their own companies in the hope of one day becoming the next Richard Branson, Anita Roddick, or indeed Alan McGee, the prospect of spending hours poring over tedious accounts is often far from their minds. And so, the Great Anorak in the Sky created accounting software.

That devastating mixture of the words accounting and software (which is usually made even worse by the addition of the overworked

Taking full account of software solutions

word "solutions") is enough to send most people into a temporary coma. But such software is fast becoming a subject of enormous importance for business.

The most obvious advantage for small companies of buying accounting software packages — which cost between £50 and £500 from companies such as Sage and Inuit — is making book-keeping faster and more efficient. Such software automates dull tasks such as sending invoices, then writing bulging follow-up letters if they are not paid.

Accounting software also allows companies to produce sophisticated reports showing a breakdown of who their main customers are, what they buy, and when they buy

it — all of which will undoubtedly impress the bank manager. Automatic number crunching, however, can also create a few problems.

John Tate, a software consultant with Tate Bramald, says companies often underestimate how much accounting and computer knowledge they need to make the most of their packages.

"It's like thinking that buying Microsoft Word will turn you into a journalist," he says. "It won't." Mr Tate adds that the hidden costs of installing software and training people to use it, are often overlooked, sending many companies way over budget.

As companies get bigger, more sophisticated software is available,



from giants such as Great Plains, Systems Union and, for very large corporations, SAP.

In this Premier League of technology companies, accounting packages are grandly referred to as Enterprise Resource Planning, reflecting their undoubtedly vital

role in most multinational corporations.

One important task that ERP software performs is analysing individual transactions. For example, the software will keep a record of which employee made a sale, and for which department. The more expensive the software, the more advanced the analysis. The best software can also automatically calculate currency fluctuations, thus showing the exact effects of exchange rates.

The latest trend in accounting software is, inevitably, the Internet. Software producers are scrambling to update their packages so that they can run on modern systems such as Microsoft NT, and plug into intranets and

extranets — networks which connect companies with their customers and suppliers.

Most people feel it is inevitable that companies will start performing most of their transactions over the Internet, but analysts have sounded a note of caution. Previous attempts to automate the entire business world, such as the Electronic Data Interchange system, have largely failed.

The push towards the Internet, however, has brought with it a welcome internationalisation of accounting software — most of which, at present, differs between countries. Those accounting software packages that manage to stay alive through this period of intense change

could one day become as commonplace as Microsoft's Word.

THE world's largest Internet marketing deal, thought to be worth more than \$22 million (£13.2 million), was signed this week between America Online and Unilever. The Anglo-Dutch conglomerate. Under the agreement, as many as 100 Unilever brands will be given a prominent presence on AOL's service.

USED trucks are the latest goods to be sold on the Internet, with Scania, the Swedish motor manufacturer, this week saying it had put 120 dealers online. Interested buyers can specify what model they want, for how much, and in what location, and the Internet software will track a truck down.

CHRIS AYRES

Anite celebrates return to black with £9.5m deal

By PAUL DURMAN

ANITE, the information technology group, has continued its recovery with a return to profits, its first dividend for three years and the purchase of a Dutch systems development business for an initial £9.5 million.

Shares in the former high flier jumped 15½p to 74½p yesterday. Last year they fell as low as 32p.

Once known as Cray Electronics, Anite reported annual pre-tax profits of £29.3 million though this was entirely due to a £31.2 million profit on the sale of its network and cabling operations to Cable & Wireless last December.

Trading profits from contin-

uing operations fell from £5 million to £4.25 million. This included £500,000 from G.M.O, a German IT consultancy acquired last year.

In the previous year Anite lost £50.4 million, largely because of a £32.2 million provision against the cost of dealing with 34 surplus properties. Anite said 61 per cent of its surplus space was now let. A further 24 per cent is let rent free until February to Case Technology, the business Anite sold for £1 last year to a company backed by Roger Holland, its former chairman.

The Dutch acquisition is Houdstermaatschappij Quality & Results, a firm that made

pre-tax profits of £800,000 last year on sales of £8.4 million. The deal offers the vendors a further £1.2 million depending on the results over the next three years.

Anite still has £35 million of cash and Alec Daly, chairman, said this and the return to profits encouraged the board to recommend a dividend of 0.25p a share — a tenth of the amount paid in 1995.

Profits of Anite Systems, the biggest business, fell to £4.9 million (£5.4 million) because of £900,000 losses from manufacturing and distribution and increased losses of £600,000 (£400,000) from its Australian network businesses.



Gordon Campbell Gray, managing director of One Aldwych, opening with strong bookings

Luxury hotel makes debut in London's theatreland

By JON ASHWORTH

LONDON'S newest luxury hotel opens today — within earshot of West End shows including *Buddy* and *Miss Saigon*. One Aldwych has 105 rooms and suites — two with private gyms — and has a private cinema. Introductory rates start from £180 a night.

The hotel, whose managing director, Gordon Campbell Gray has two other hotel openings to his credit — The Feathers in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, and The Draycott in Chelsea — reports strong advance bookings from City

institutions, as well as from overseas.

The hotel lies on the border of the City and the West End. Built in 1907, the original Edwardian building has been converted at substantial cost, backed by UK private investors via an offshore company, Hemisphere Hotels. The cost of the project is not disclosed, but The Lanesborough at Hyde Park Corner, which has 90 rooms, was similarly converted at a cost of £85 million.

The 200-room London Marriott County Hall and 160-

room Chelsea Village are among 13 hotel openings planned in London this year, according to Pannell Kerr Forster. Hotels in the capital enjoyed average occupancies of 83.9 per cent in 1997 — a figure bettered only twice in the past 25 years.

Visitors from North America constitute more than a fifth of all hotel business, compensating for the sharp drop in visitors from Japan. Arrivals from Europe slipped 5 per cent last year due to the strength of sterling.

ABN Amro in \$2bn bank takeover

By RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ABN AMRO, the Dutch financial group, is paying \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion) for Banco Real, the fourth-largest privately held bank in Brazil. It is ABN Amro's largest acquisition, and the biggest banking takeover in Latin America.

Banco Real had assets of \$15 billion at the end of 1997, 2.2 million retail clients and more than 100,000 corporate customers. Based in Sao Paulo, it has 1,372 branches and employs 15,000 people.

The bank also brings a network of 46 branches in seven other Latin American countries, doubling ABN Amro's presence in the region. The agreement covers 10 other businesses including residential mortgages and asset management.

Although ABN Amro will acquire 100 per cent of Banco Real's shares, its participation in the voting shares has initially been limited to 40 per cent. The transaction is subject to a due diligence investigation and the approval of authorities in Brazil and The Netherlands.

ABN Amro, which recently lost out to

its rival, Fortis, for control of Generale Bank of Belgium, is financing the acquisition through the issue of \$1 billion in preference shares and from its own means.

Jan Kalf, chairman of ABN Amro Bank's Managing Board, said: "We are impressed with Banco Real's well-established reputation as a conservatively managed, traditional bank, and have confidence it will contribute positively to the group's earnings per share as of 1999."

The Dutch banking group is believed to have beaten off a number of rival offers.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

June damps down shares in Treats

SHARES in Treats Group, the food producer, dived from 93½p to 68½p after the company blamed what it described as "the wettest June for many years" for having to issue a profits warning. Treats told the market that its estimates for the pre-tax profits for the first half of the financial year show that it will register less than it did in the previous first half.

Treats said: "Following one of the wettest Junes for many years, Treats' sales for one of its main trading months fell significantly below budget." The statement added: "With the remainder of the summer holiday season still to come, it is too early to predict accurately the outcome for the year as a whole. However, it is now likely that the results for the full calendar year will be disappointing and will fall short of market expectations." The interim results are expected to be announced in August, when the company says it will provide investors with an update. The shares traded at a high of 176p in 1997, but at last night's closing price Treats was worth a little less than £15 million on the stock market.

Birchin makes disposal

BIRCHIN INTERNATIONAL, the AIM-listed company, took a further restructuring step yesterday with the £650,000 disposal of its banking training division to a management buyout team led by Roger Pultrey, the managing director. Birchin will receive cash of £50,000 with the remaining £600,000 in loan notes. The training division's annual turnover was £300,000, producing a pre-tax profit of £17,000. The business is valued at £400,000 in Birchin's books.

SAS to recruit 1,000

SAS, the Scandinavian airline, is to recruit 1,000 more pilots and cabin crew in the next two years. The airline, which has already employed about 500 new cabin staff and pilots in recent months, said: "Over the next three years we will take on 60 new aircraft for both domestic and European routes, so we need more staff." SAS currently employs about 23,000 people. Cost-cutting between 1991 and 1994 saw the airline reduce staff by about 3,000.

Heiton profits up 28%

HEITON, the Irish builder's merchant and steel stockholder, raised pre-tax profits by 28 per cent to £111 million on sales up 18 per cent to £1.66 billion in the year to end April. The total dividend rises 25.6 per cent to 4.9p out of earnings up 30 per cent to 16.02p. Richard Hewat, chief executive, said: "Investment throughout the economy, both private and public, will continue to be buoyant and turnover in the first two months of the new year is ahead of 1997."

Dudley Jenkins grows

DUDLEY JENKINS, the direct mail supplies group, raised pre-tax profits from £2.6 million to £3.6 million in the year to the end of April on sales up to £21.5 million to £25 million. Earnings rose from 12.22p to 17.73p out of which the total dividend goes up from 4.75p to 6.50p after payment of a 4.50p final. Tylan Bahcheli, the chairman, said: "To date, indications are that direct mail volumes will continue to grow during 1998 and we look at 1999 with cautious optimism."

Cropcare sold for £10m

MARUBENI, the Japanese group, has bought Cropcare, the British agrochemical sales company, for about £10 million through Agrovista, its Dutch joint-venture. This will leave Agrovista, owned 60 per cent by Marubeni and 40 per cent by Hoechst, the German chemical group, with four agrochemical sales units in Europe. It already has one unit in England and two in The Netherlands. Combined European sales of the four companies stands at about £125 million a year.

Daejan advances

DAEJAN HOLDINGS, the property company, raised pre-tax profits from £24.5 million to £27.1 million in the year to March 31. Earnings per share rose from 102.6p to 119.1p and the dividend for the year from 38p to 42p. The shares were unchanged at £17.10. Net asset value per share rose from £16.72 to £17.87 after a property revaluation. Counting in trading stock the valuation rises from £20.86 to £22. Holdings of investment property rose from £330 million to £351 million.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Chance to question audit role

Jon Grant says the new review by the Government offers an ideal platform to update company law

The Auditing Practices Board (APB) has welcomed the Government's decision to review company law. Most of the concepts on which existing company law are based have their origins in the last century and were designed to support the introduction of the limited liability company. At the time this was a new entity having a separate legal personality from its owners and affording those owners limited financial liability. These early companies were generally small in terms of their share capital and the number of shareholders.

Today many listed companies have share capital measured in billions of pounds with many hundreds of thousands of shareholders. The last hundred years has also seen the emergence of institutional investors as the major shareholders. Overriding and facilitating all these developments is the pervasive influence of information technology. These changes challenge the basic prepositions regarding the way in which companies are owned and managed. The APB believes it is time to re-examine the framework of relationships that exist between companies, shareholders and directors, and to reconsider whether company law today achieves the correct balance between the conflicting interests and responsibilities of such groups.



Alan Weller

Jon Grant wants appropriate protection for auditors information many readers may assume that the auditors have checked the totality of the annual report. This raises issues concerning the clarity with which the auditors' role is defined and communicated. Company law envisages the annual report as the primary communication between the company and its shareholders. This is no longer true. Major listed companies communicate in many ways including interim statements, analysts' briefings and putting financial information on the internet. Information technology will facilitate

further change. The importance of the annual report is destined to diminish and consideration should be given to determine the extent to which other information should be audited. It was also inevitable that an expectation would develop that auditors would detect fraud. Expectations have grown dramatically. In the public's mind, however, the detection of fraud remains a primary objective of the audit. Thus it would be valuable to examine both the directors' and the auditors' responsibilities in relation to fraud. Such a review should recognise that any increase in auditors' responsibility to detect fraud would require additional audit work and cost, which the directors would be likely to resist. This suggests that it would also be useful to explore the auditors' and the auditors' responsibilities are appointed and paid. The audit has an important position within the current structure of company law. To retain, and indeed to increase, its relevance, the APB believes its role should be reconsidered. The Government's decision to review company law provides an opportunity for this. Changes in responsibility are, however, likely to involve auditors in increasingly judgmental areas which will add to their risks. To ensure they will be willing to undertake this work the review should ensure that they are afforded appropriate protection. Jon Grant is technical director of the APB

Vision thing needed for mid-tier players

IT IS a time of high risk for accountancy firms in the mid-tier sector. They are, so the argument runs, too small to compete as the Big Five power away around the globe. And they are too cumbersome to be nimble enough in an entrepreneurial sector. This is undoubtedly true of some. But certainly not the case for others. There are silver linings. The Big Five are eight years ahead in terms of size. But there is no reason why the medium-sized firms should not be able to compete increasingly for niche services. The finance directors' arguments against the merger that turned the Big Six into the Big Five were almost exclusively to do with losing the ability to hire all or enough of them to do different bits of complex jobs, particularly in the field of corporate finance. But as one senior finance director said in response recently: "They have forgotten there is a Gram Thornton."

Like many firms of its size, Neville Russell was part of a loose network of firms around the globe. But, as John Mellows, a senior partner, pointed out: "It suffered. It gained members. It lost members. There was no common ownership or management." Any number of senior partners in this sector will know exactly what he means. Expensive beanos overseas provide a veneer of common interest. But too often in the end there is more cash wasted on the politics involved than there is cash arriving through the door in terms of referred work. The name of Neville Russell will, in time, vanish from that of the new firm. But in the meantime Mazars Neville Russell will, from the beginning of September, be trying to put a new way of working into practice. Meanwhile, others firms are wrestling with the same problem. The prolonged saga of talks between Kidsons and Moores Rowland seems no nearer to reaching a successful conclusion and other firms, such as Robson Rhodes in particular, seem to have lost the subject of those scrutinising grander plans. Great names of the past such as Pannell Kerr Forster seem a bit adrift after losing the last of their old prestige audits. Others, such as Baker Tilly, are looking distinctly more chipper these days, while Clark Whitehill is still trying to get its strategy together. The answer is the old one of vision and leadership. Oddly enough it seems to be harder to unify and galvanise a partnership at this size than it is when you get up among the global giants. Down in the mid-tier, partners probably still regret conclusion a collective say over the colour of the wallpaper in reception. But the problems are taxing. It is hard to attract the best managers or partner level staff and without such people it is impossible to create the new niche areas which would bring strength, growth and competitive edge for the future. And merging has usually been a disastrous strategy. Putting two firms together which are incapable of action does not create dynamism. Oh my Dearden and my Farrow long ago. "The paradox," said John Mellows, "is in trying to provide both more resources and better personal service." It is a conundrum which any number of the mid-tier firms urgently need to solve.



Robert Bruce

Time's up at Price Waterhouse

MERGERS have very odd knock-on effects. Take that of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, the biggest that we have yet seen in the accountancy world. There must be a vast landfill site somewhere which is filling up with all the old bits of branded memorabilia as truckloads of redundant paperweights and umbrellas are dumped there. But accountants can be imaginative over such things as well. The dinner at a

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

conference of ISO mostly Price Waterhouse audit partners held at an Oxford college last week saw some unusual sights. They held an auction and, hard though this may be to believe, sold each other their Price Waterhouse watches and other bits of the old firm which they had about their persons. The bizarre event raised some £2,000 for the Marie Curie cancer charity.

Good impressions

ERNST & YOUNG is, as we all know, only in it for the Monet. After memorable sponsorships of Picasso, Cezanne and Bonnard exhibitions at the Tate, the firm is to sponsor next January's blockbuster at the Royal Academy of Monet's work from the early years of this century. Some of the paintings of the Houses of Parliament were, after all, painted from a point just across the road from E&Y's

Called to account

MEANWHILE, the dogged and colourful opposition from Ernst & Young to the Accounting Standards Board's efforts to introduce a statement of principles underlying financial reporting looks to be backfiring. At the annual conference of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants, which was held this week, the hotel group Stakis's finance director, Neil Chisman, finished his presentation on "the future shape of financial reporting—the business response" with a list of five short pieces of advice for preparers of accounts. The third was: "Don't listen to Ernst & Young."

Law Report July 9 1998 Court of Appeal

Deciding whether publication deserves qualified privilege

Reynolds v Times Newspapers Ltd and Others
Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Robert Walker
[Judgment July 8]
The common welfare of the modern British democracy was best served by simple dissemination to the public of information concerning, and vigorous discussion of, matters relating to the public life of the community and to those who participated in it. Accordingly, consistently with article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953, Cmd 8949) and to maintain the proper balance between the preservation of freedom of speech and the right to reputation of a individual engaged in public life, the defence of common law qualified privilege was available to a defamatory and factually false publication which was honestly made and related to such matters where the following tests were satisfied:
1 That, in performing its task of informing the public, the newspaper had a legal, moral or social duty to the general public to publish the material in question;
2 That the general public had a corresponding interest in receiving such tests to be more readily held satisfied than formerly; and
3 That the nature, status and source of the material and the circumstances of its publication were such as to warrant the protection of privilege in the absence of malice.
The Court of Appeal so held when:
(1) dismissing a cross-appeal by the defendants, Times Newspapers Ltd, Alan Ruddock and John Withrow, from Mr Justice French who had ruled that their publication in the British mainland edition of *The Sunday Times* on November 20, 1994 concerning the political crisis in Ireland leading to the resignation of the plaintiff, Mr Albert Reynolds, as Taoiseach did not attract qualified privilege; and
(2) allowing the plaintiff's appeal on the ground of factual misdirection in the judge's summing-up to the jury and
(3) ordering a new trial.
Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, Mr James Price, QC and Miss Emma Dixon for the defendants; Mr Andrew Caldecott, QC and Mr Benjamin Hinchcliff for Mr Reynolds.
THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the qualified referred to the issue of Lord Lester's privilege, said that Lord Lester's central submission was that such privilege:
1 Protected a publication to the public at large, arising out of discussion of political matters, including the manner in which a public representative or senior public officer had discharged his public functions, or relating to his public views and conduct in re-

spect of those functions or his fitness for political office; and
2 Arose in particular where the plaintiff was an elected politician and the defamatory words related to his conduct in his public role and not to his private life or to anything he had said or done in a purely personal capacity; and that
3 The need to recognise such a privilege was because of the well recognised "chilling effect" of the threat of libel actions on freedom of expression.
The court referred to the basic principles of the common law of qualified privilege set out in *Duncan and Neill on Defamation* (2nd edition (1983) paragraphs 14.04 to 14.05) and extensively to the case law.
It concluded on the strength of that powerful and consistent line of authority that the ultimate question in each case was whether the occasion of the particular publication, in the light of its particular circumstances, contained the necessary ingredients to give rise to the privilege, always bearing in mind that the rule was an aspect of public policy; that protection must be "fairly" warranted by any reasonable occasion or exigency" (see *Toogood v Spryng* (1834) 1 CM & R 181); and that the circumstances constituting a privileged occasion "can themselves never be antiquated and rendered obsolete" (see *London Association for Protection of Trade v Greenlands Ltd* (1916) 2 AC 15).
It followed that when applying the present common law of qualified privilege the following questions needed to be answered in relation to any individual occasion:
1 Was the publisher under a legal, moral or social duty to those to whom the material was published, which might be the general public, to publish the material in question? (The duty test).
2 Did those to whom it was published, again that might be the general public, have an interest to receive it? (The interest test).
3 Were the nature, status and source of the material and the circumstances of the publication such that the publication should in the absence of proof of express malice? (The circumstantial test).
"Status" denoted the degree to which information on a matter of public concern might, because of its character and known provenance, command respect. The higher the status of report the more likely it was to meet the circumstantial test.
Conversely, unverified information from unidentified and unofficial sources might have little or no status and where defamatory statements of fact were to be published to the widest audience on the strength of such sources the publisher undertook a heavy burden in showing that the publication was "fairly" warranted by any reasonable occasion or exigency".
So far as malice was concerned it was important to bear in mind the burden resting on the plaintiff: *Horrocks v Lowe* (1975) AC 135).

The court considered the official reports on a defendant's report of a committee on proper balance" between the protection of the individual's reputation and the preservation of freedom of speech; *Report on Practice and Procedure in Defamation* (1991) and the *Defamation Act 1952* and 1996.
Both statutes, following the same approach as the common law and insulating specific occasions, defined by their subject matter, to which the protection extended, listed categories of statutory qualified privilege, many cases enshrining principles foreshadowed in earlier rulings.
The court referred to the election cases such as *Bradock v Bevins* (1948) 1 KB 580 and to *Derbyshire County Council v Times Newspapers Ltd* (1993) AC 534 on which Lord Lester had heavily relied. It was common ground that the so-called chilling effect in that case was part of its ratio and that that effect essentially arose from the need on the defendant's part to prove justification.
Lord Lester had argued that, by parity of reasoning, the publication of criticism of an individual politician would be similarly chilled and that the corollary of the *Derbyshire* decision had to be to accord a defence of qualified privilege in actions by individual politicians or public servants. However, in the court's judgment, on a proper reading, that case left the present question completely open.
Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights was another classic recognition of the "proper balance": see the *Faulks Report* (paragraph 19).
Lingens v Austria (1986) 8 EHRR 407, again vividly exemplified the importance both of freedom of speech and of maintaining the proper balance, although no doubt tilting it in favour of the newspaper in publications concerning politicians.
It was noteworthy how carefully the distinction was drawn between, on the one hand, respect for the truth in the statement of fact, and, on the other, the widest possible scope for criticism and comment: themes repeated in *Oberschlick v Austria* (1995) 19 EHRR 389, *Barfod v Denmark* (1991) 13 EHRR 493, *De Haes and Gijssels v Belgium* (1998) 25 EHRR 11 and *Oberschlick v Austria* (No 2) (1998) 25 EHRR 357.
There was nothing either in article 10 or in those Convention cases which was inconsistent with the principles of English common law qualified privilege and Lord Lester did not argue to the contrary.
His submission was that the extension of qualified privilege to

political speech in present circumstances would give proper recognition to the wider limits of acceptable criticism as laid down in the *Lingens* case where open discussion of political issues was concerned.
The court referred to the sheet anchor of Lord Lester's arguments: *Lange v Australian and Australian Consolidated Press NZ Ltd* (1997) 2 NZLR 23 and, on appeal, the judgment of the New Zealand Court of Appeal (unreported May 25, 1998) which had held, in the context of those elected, or seeking election, to Parliament, that (i) that the defence of qualified privilege might be available in respect of a statement published generally;
(ii) that the wider public might have a proper interest in respect of generally published statements which directly concerned the functioning of representative and responsible government, including statements about the performance of specific individuals in elected public office;
(iii) that a proper interest did exist in respect of statements about actions and qualities of those currently or formerly, or aspiring to be, elected to Parliament so far as those actions and qualities directly affected their capacity to meet their public responsibilities;
(iv) that the determination of the matters bearing on that capacity would depend on a consideration of what was properly a matter of public rather than private concern; and
(v) that the width of the identified public concern justified the extent of the publication.
While recognising the desirability of comity and agreeing with much said by members of the New Zealand Court of Appeal, the court could not unreservedly and fully adopt their analysis of English common law qualified privilege in as much as:
(i) the duty test was unwarrantably elided with the interest test, reciprocity was downgraded and no weight was accorded to the circumstantial test which, by exclusion of the Australian reasonableness test, was in effect set aside;
(ii) undue weight was accorded to the *Derbyshire* decision and no or insufficient weight was given to the proper balance. Even approaching the matter on an incremental basis the decision did not and should not represent the English common law.
In *Lange v Australian Broadcasting Corporation* (1997) 145 ALR 96 the High Court of Australia accorded the self-same privilege, subject there to an important statutory qualification that the newspaper prove reasonable-ness.
For much the same reasons as in relation to the New Zealand decision the court would not wholly adopt the Australian solution as such, but did attach considerable importance to their adoption of the reasonableness test.

The constitutional privilege accorded to *Keir v Times v Sullivan* (1969) 376 US 259 of defamatory statements concerning public officials, and extended in subsequent decisions, was essentially based on the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and was not therefore directly in point in the present case, as Lord Lester recognised.
But he emphasised and commended the liberality of the court's approach to the public interest considerations which underlay its decision, and which were reflected in the *Derbyshire* case and the subsequent *New Zealand and Australian* decisions.
The court did not for an instant doubt that the common convenience and welfare of a modern plural democracy such as ours were best served by a simple flow of information to the public at large concerning, and by vigorous public discussion of, matters of public interest to the community.
By that was meant matters relating to the "public life" of the community and those who took part in it, including such as expression of views on the public at large, in modern conditions the duty test should be rather more readily held to be satisfied.
Corresponding to the media's duty to inform was the public's interest in receiving information. Article 10 laid down such a right, matters such as, for instance, the

governance of public bodies, institutions and companies which gave rise to a public interest in disclosure, but excluding matters which were personal and private such that there was no public interest in their disclosure.
Recognition that the common convenience and welfare of society were best served in that way was a modern democratic imperative which the law had to accept. In differing ways and to differing extents it did so in the United States, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere and in the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.
It would be strange if the law of England, the land of Milton, Paine and Mill, were to deny that recognition, and the history to which the court had referred made plain that it did not.
As it was the task of the news media to inform the public and engage in public discussion of matters of public interest so was that to be recognised as its duty.
The cases to which the court had referred showed acceptance of that duty even where publication was by a newspaper to the public at large. In modern conditions the duty test should be rather more readily held to be satisfied.
Corresponding to the media's duty to inform was the public's interest in receiving information. Article 10 laid down such a right, matters such as, for instance, the

public also had an interest to receive information on matters of public interest to the community. The cases had accepted that the public generally might have an interest to receive information published in a newspaper, so satisfying the interest test. In modern conditions that test should also be rather more readily held to be satisfied.
It would run counter to English authority and do nothing to promote the common convenience of our society to discard the circumstantial test.
Assuming that a statement was defamatory, factually false, but honestly believed to be true, it was one thing to publish a statement taken from a government press release, or report of a public company chairman, and quite another to publish a statement from a political opponent, a business competitor or a disgruntled ex-employee.
It was one thing to publish a statement which the person defamed had been given the opportunity to rebut, and quite another to publish without any recourse to the person defamed, where such recourse was possible.
It was one thing to publish a statement which had been so far as possible checked and quite another to do so without such verification as was possible and as a statement of the person defamed.
While those engaging in public

life had to expect and accept that their public conduct would be the subject of discussion, criticism they should not be taken to expect or accept that it should be the subject of false and defamatory statements of fact unless the circumstances of the publication were such as to make it proper in the public interest for the publisher immunity from liability in the absence of malice.
The court would accordingly reject Lord Lester's proposed rule and adhere to the existing tests of qualified privilege, applied as the court had described.
The circumstances in which the plaintiff's government fell from power were matters of undoubted public interest to the people of Great Britain; it was clear the defendant had a duty to inform the public of those matters and the public had a corresponding interest to receive that information. The duty and interest tests were accordingly satisfied.
However, having considered the nature, source and status of the defendant's information and all the circumstances of its publication, the court concluded that the circumstantial test was not satisfied and that the publication was not one which should in the public interest be protected by privilege in the absence of proof of actual malice.
Solicitors: Theodore Goddard; Crockers Oswald Hickson.
regarded as owing a duty of care to Z when the participation of X in the preparation of Y's statement was unknown to Z.
So far as Z was concerned the statement which he received and acted upon was that of Y alone. It could not be said that Z relied upon X, the crucial part in the matter he was wholly ignorant.
The matter might be different if Y told Z of the participation of X, even if X did not know that Y would do so.
But that could hardly happen in the context of a rights issue or similar transaction, where it was well established practice and, in cases involving the issue of a prospectus or equivalent document, a legal requirement that the document should contain a statement that the maker of the report had given and not withdrawn his consent to the inclusion of his report in the document, and it certainly did not happen in the present case.
Solicitors: Leon Kaye Collin & Giltens, Barnebas; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.
Correction
In *Christie v Wilson* (The Times July of the word "successfully" was inadvertently omitted. It should have been made clear that Mr David Price's advice was that, on what he had been told, there was no significant risk of being successfully sued for libel.

Accountants not liable to third party

Abbott and Others v Strong and Others
Before Mr Justice Ferris
[Judgment May 22]
Where a person made a statement to another for the purpose of assisting that person to make representations to a third party, and the third party assumed that the representations were made by the representative alone, the person assisting the representative did not assume any responsibility toward, or owe any duty of care to the third party.
Mr Justice Ferris so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on May 22, dismissing the application of the plaintiffs, Resort Hotels Ltd, which were more than 200 shareholders in Resort Hotels Ltd, to rescind a circular which set out the basis on which the forecast of profit had been put together, affirming that it was properly compiled and presented on a basis consistent with the accounting policies normally adopted by Resort.
The plaintiffs argued that the circular was grossly misleading in several respects as a result of fraudulent misrepresentations made by Robert Feld, then managing director of Resort and the second defendant, to both Coopers and the plaintiffs.
In March 1997 Mr Feld was sentenced to a substantial term of imprisonment for various offences of fraud, forgery and other dishonest conduct arising out of those transactions.
His Lordship said that the issue of principle on this application was: "Is it arguable that Coopers owed a duty of care to the plaintiffs in respect of the accuracy of the figures stated in the circular be-

yond the duty of care (if any) which, on the true construction of the circular, was owed to the plaintiffs by reason of the representations contained in Coopers' letter?"
Sir Godfrey Le Queuse argued that there was no reason in law why Coopers should not be held to owe the duty of care to the shareholders as they owed to Resort.
Coopers knew that their advice was required for the purpose of a circular and profits forecast in support of a rights issue, and that the substance of their advice would be passed on to Resort and/or directors to the shareholders, who would be likely to rely on it.
His Lordship was of the opinion that none of the many cases on negligent advice or misstatement to which he was referred dealt expressly with the issue arising in the present case.
Since *Hedley Byrne & Co Ltd v Heller & Partners Ltd* (1964) AC 463, it was quite comprehensible that a person who made a statement to another in circumstances in which he knew or expected that the recipient of the statement would act upon it, was under a duty of care to that recipient.
However, it was not comprehensible that a person, X, who made a statement or gave advice to another, Y, for the purpose of assisting Y to make representations to a third party, Z, was to be

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized into columns with headers like 'UNIT TRUST NAME', 'PRICE', and 'CHANGE'. Includes various fund names such as 'AGILITY UNIT TRUST', 'AMERICAN EQUITY UNIT TRUST', etc.

WITHDRAWN advertisement with a large 'X' over the text. Text includes: 'If an ad misleads, we're here to stamp it out. Advertising Standards Authority. 2 Torrington Place London WC1E 7HW 0171 580 5555 www.asa.org.uk'.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or additional publication information.



FILM
Bustin hurts
for seeds in
Mad City
PAGE 37

THE TIMES ARTS

POP
An acceptable
face of
country music?
PAGE 39



True to his word, if not the Spirit

Of the plays that formed what became grandly known as the Hare Trilogy, *Racing Demon* was the liveliest, the most complex and, involving as it did a subject sadly seldom discussed in either polite society or the theatre, the most original. That makes it worth the strongly acted revival that Christopher Morahan now gives it; yet the worry I expressed back in 1990 has not evaporated. Isn't it as if a very clever fish were telling us about the ozone layer, or a brilliant bird describing the ocean depths? Can David Hare, the white knight of British humanism, really do justice to the problems of the Church of England?

THEATRE
Racing Demon
Christ

tions raised by the plot, and, to his credit, Hare answers them more subtly and sensitively than one might have expected of a man who interviewed lots of vicars when he was researching the piece but is not, I suspect, often to be found telling his beads or poring over his Aquinas.

role; but his is a terrific portrait of a man ill at ease with himself and his calling. His face is wan and pained. He squints and leans awkwardly forward, his shoulders jutting at painful angles as he prays to God the "perpetual absence" or talks of "Jesus, as it were". The performance explains why Tony and Southwark find him and his moral anguishings inadequate. What it cannot explain is why Hare believes that this earnestly ineffective social worker, who thinks the sacraments irrelevant, should be permitted to retain his parish or even his dog-collar.



Denis Quilley as the Bishop of Southwark in Christopher Morahan's revival of David Hare's *Racing Demon*

Checks on the male

AS World Cup fever reaches its overblown nadir, the only surprise about the sporadic violence outside the grounds is why anybody is surprised by it. Which is why this self-styled "Celebration of Testosterone in Twelve Parts" comes in roaring and, occasionally, scoring. For what Mischief La-bas's Ian Smith has done is pull together a disparate team of primarily solo performers, given them the Theseus and the Minotaur myth as a starting point, then have each contribute to this picaresque promenade around hitherto unexplored corners of one of the most important theatre spaces in Europe.

Watched over by a quintet of gossamer guides, we gaze at images of manhood as the original mad scientist Ken Campbell goes goggle-eyed on the video and an interloper is ejected. For real? Probably not, but that's the trouble with this art terrorism business. Call their bluff, and they run a mile.

Smith himself is the Minotaur, a horny, technofied MC with a chip on his shoulder. In his contemporary beefing-up of the legends, he manages to make reference to Tommy Steele, Boy George and Winnie the Pooh's Tigger. A shrine to George Best finds a champagne bottle flanked by two golden balls suggesting how the Belfast boy really scored. Past the Sperm store (Grade D), and we are in drag artiste Divine David's boudoir beneath the venue's main seating bank. Here this post-modern Julian Clary holds court and chats us up, a star turn for sure. Arne Seagrave presents the night's most serene moment as, locked in a glass case, she winds a woollen ball into patterns above her, saying more about the tapping of creative energies than anything else on show.

NEIL COOPER

Downwardly mobile

THERE is something rubbery, familiar and enduringly optimistic about John Godber's characters. They are Little Englanders who miss every penalty kick that comes their way but are still convinced they are winners long after Godber has satirically demolished them. So it is in *Perfect Pitch* (at the Stephen Joseph Theatre), a comedy perched precariously on a cliff-top caravan site overlooking one of Scarborough's bays.

Perfect Pitch
Comedy

Watching the Grunts' caravan shake and groan from the force of their erotic exertions, we wonder, along with Ron and Yvonne, who or what might emerge. Step forward Steph, a brass-tongued working-class girl barely out of her teens, followed by John Branwell's lugubrious Grant, a 44-year-old (same age as Ron) beer-guzzling slob.

Having not had a drink for three months, her decision to escort Steph to a *Full Monty* ladies' night, while Ron elects to stay put with a David Lodge novel, results in severe baby oil embarrassment for Yvonne and some rare, delicious procrustinating from a boozed-up Grant.

Evil relished in all its variety

EVEN if he is acting on a crowded stage, Steven Berkoff will never pass unnoticed. And on a stage empty, as in this absorbing show, of everything save himself, simply dressed in black trousers and a black, open-necked shirt, his every gesture is visible, every spoken syllable heard.

dote with a demonstration of Garrick-acting-by-numbers: the four steps backward, the open mouth, one outstretched arm slightly higher than the other... but which arm? Like many of his asides, this one makes us laugh, and those of us who really know only Berkoff's grimmer characterisations will enjoy the revelation of his comic side.

For while reminding us of the actor's wish to make us feel events as his character feels them, he clearly regrets the passing of an era when a man could engage, over and over again, with the great, audience-freezing roles.

olanus and — a surprise choice, this — Oberon. Another surprise is the convincing case he makes for Shylock to be played as a filthy, lice-infested horror. What he says about the characters is always pertinent and his performances are bound to be strikingly original, since he is the only actor I know who explores a style generally beaten out of students at drama school: he illustrates the words. He bends, twists, signals, picks invisible flowers and plays a most lascivious lute. His method fails with Oberon, but elsewhere the effect is to thrust the words vividly into our minds. Perhaps this is indeed how Garrick did it.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Advertisement for the play *Touch* featuring Bridget Fonda, Christopher Walken, Sheel Ulrich, and Tom Arnold. The ad includes a large image of the cast and promotional text: "STARTS TOMORROW at PLAZA... WHITELEYS".

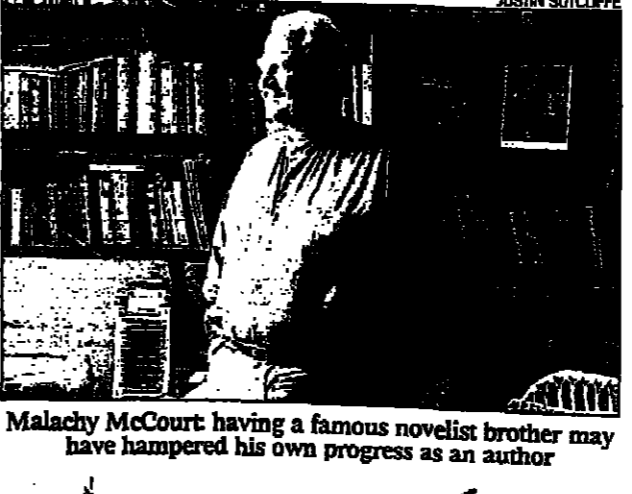
Tale of poor strikes gold

A first book by a 66-year-old Irish American has become the subject of a frantic bidding battle. Leading European publishers who originally rejected Malachy McCourt's memoir, *A Monk Swimming*, have been frantically calling back the agent who originally offered them the manuscript after it reached No 7 in America's bestseller list within days of publication.

At 66, Malachy McCourt has seen his first novel become a white-hot property. Dalya Alberge reports

raised in grinding poverty in Ireland, who became a pub keeper and actor in New York and a gold smuggler in India. The *New York Times* wrote: "Where Frank is restrained and tragic, Malachy is outrageous and comic."

that could allow its people to suffer such extremes of poverty, recalling how "my father was chronically unemployed and my mother sat by the fire depressed. My main emotion used to be incessant rage. Now, although it [Ireland] has been forgiven, that doesn't mean I have to like it. The institutions let us down — the Government, the Church, the education system all failed us."



Malachy McCourt: having a famous novelist brother may have hampered his own progress as an author

Large vertical advertisement for "Ming Black" featuring the text "NEW MOVIES: Do you" and "Ming Black".

مكتبة الأصيل

NEW MOVIES: Jez Butterworth's cult play *Mojo* has transferred stylishly to the screen, James Christopher discovers

Do you want to be in my gang?

When first-time playwright Jez Butterworth made the main stage at the Royal Court three years ago with *Mojo*, his play was a dazzling success. Prematurely restaged at the Court within a year with a new cast, it felt hollow: a pyrrhic triumph of style over content with lamentable cardboard performances.

Now cut to shreds and heavily rewritten, it has found a home on celluloid and provides Butterworth with an impressive directing debut. The characters are still flash, showy and full of insolent bravura, but they have greater psychological depth and we get more of a story. Set in Ezra's Soho nightclub in 1958, just as rock'n'roll discovered puberty, *Mojo* plots the aspirations of a group of youths who would be gangsters.

When pudgy, middle-aged Ezra recruits a new toyboy, Hans Matheson's impossibly beautiful Silver Johnny, the young singer causes an instant sensation at the club. But making money out of an infatuation is a mucky, grown-up business. When Silver Johnny is kidnapped and Ezra's corpse ends up in two separate bins, our twenty-something gangsters start getting rubbery legs.

There's more than a touch of the *Lord of the Flies* about this scenario. Locked up in their dingy nightclub for the weekend awaiting the worst — a takeover bid by Ezra's lethal rival, Sam Ross — the hierarchy of loyalties starts disintegrating. Baby, Ezra's motiveless, delinquent son, needles Ewen Bremner's dim, weaselly Skinny to the point of hysterics. Mickey (Ian Hart), Ezra's trusted lieutenant, tries to impose order while Potts and Sweets notch up their paranoia by gobbling pills that turn their urine black.

If Aidan Gillen's unpredictable Baby steals attention with his switchblade humours and cool stares, it is Harold Pinter's Ross who eventually steals the film. Filling a huge ugly hole in this dark jigsaw of a thriller, he is electric as the grown-up gangland fixer and horrifying as a craggy, lowed seducer of the captive Silver Johnny. There are theatrical longuets and indulgences, but where the play was often contrived, the film is modishly slick.

Sharks have a habit of eating their own when they are in a blood frenzy. So it is with newshounds in Costa Gavras's *Mad City*, a film where Dustin Hoffman once again reprises a role as a reporter, Max Brackett, in a morally sick business.

Once talented, ambitious and cruising to the top of his profession, Brackett's career took a spectacular nosedive when he turned on Alan Alda's veteran anchorman in the aftermath of an aircraft disaster. Pumped about the exact state of the bodies he shrieks on camera: "Let me find a gaff. Do you want an arm or a leg?"

Now demoted to a local station and covering banalities like museum funding, Brackett sweats professional resentment. Until, that is, John Travolta's sacked security guard, Sam Bailey,

Mojo
Plaza, 15, 90 mins
Crubby, modishly slick gangster film about 1950s Soho

Mad City
Warner West End, 15, 114 mins
Cynical thriller about media news sharks

Touch
Plaza, 15, 97 mins
Cool adaptation of Elmore Leonard's modern Christ novel

Sling Blade
UCI Whiteleys, 15, 135 mins
Compelling portrait of a mentally deficient ex-con coming home

Kiss or Kill
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, 18, 96 minutes
Flat Australian road movie with scenery to match

shambles through the door with a shotgun to persuade the museum curator to give him his job back. Wonderfully dim, Bailey accidentally shoots a black middle-aged colleague and, panic-stricken, creates a hostage situation complete with schoolchildren while Brackett is still wired to his outside broadcast unit. With the inside exclusive and a chance to put his career back on the map, Brackett coolly turns the accident into a national crisis, a moral rallying point, and one of the news stories of the year.

Mad City is hardly searing satire but it grapples with its issue with the enthusiasm of a full-scale thriller. It is also deliciously cynical about media opportunism and TV's ability to shape and be shaped by the fickle, sensation-seeking tastes of its viewers. Hoffman's performance is meticulously understated and Travolta provides a surprisingly moving performance as the basically decent Bailey.

Paul Schrader's cool adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel *Touch* shares *Mad City*'s preoccupation with media exploitation. Slick Ulrich's twenty-something Juvenal has the miraculous gift of healing. When he lays his hands on the sick or the blind, he bleeds from stigmata lesions and a wound opens up in his side. To all other intents and purposes he is a charming recluse with a dry wit and an endearingly uncomplicated way with the truth.

But this being America, Juvenal's powers don't escape the notice of Christopher Walken's failed evangelist, now a spivvy used-car salesman, Bill Hill. The camera spends much time padding after Bill's awful shiny suits and sharp shoes as he cynically plots to sell Juvenal to prime-time TV. But it's Juvenal's artless relationship with Bill's entirely more wholesome friend, Lynn (Bridget Fonda), that cleverly subverts the awkward sense of awe surrounding Juvenal's mysterious power.

Having humanised him, Schrader makes a palpable satiric point about the spiritu-



Baby, look at you now: Aidan Gillen exudes menace as Baby, leader of the youths who would be gangsters in the screen version of *Mojo*, which also stars Harold Pinter

'Well worth a few pounds'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

MOJO
Leslie Isiah Thomas, 20: A fine little film that shows us the enormous potential of British cinema. Well worth a few of your pounds.
Carl Clark, 19: Jez Butterworth's attempt to transfer his play to the screen is only mildly successful.
Emma Rolph, 19: Really staggy, it just didn't work at all.

Alison Julliard, 20: Jez Butterworth makes an extremely impressive directorial debut.

MAD CITY
Leslie: Travolta is a big disappointment. He's beginning to show how limited he is.
Carl: Hoffman gives a typically great performance. Unfortunately, this is a very average movie.
Emma: The moment Hoffman isn't on the screen, the

film falls to pieces. A heavily flawed movie.
Alison: A film that just doesn't make full use of the talents of Hoffman and Travolta. The script is very amateur.

SLING BLADE
Leslie: Really refreshing. Great performance and a fascinating story. I was hooked.
Carl: Billy Bob Thornton's sensitive performance was rightly rewarded with an Os-



car nomination. His acting is stunning.
Emma: Way too long — I had been really enjoying it but then it began to drag.
Alison: I couldn't help but shed a tear. A wonderful, gripping drama.

"An engrossing, intelligent thriller, rigorously scripted, insightfully directed and excellently played."

DUSTIN HOFFMAN JOHN TRAVOLTA

A DESPERATE MAN. AN AMBITIOUS REPORTER. A SITUATION GONE MAD.

MAD CITY 15

FROM TOMORROW IN CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

GEOFF BROWN

NEW ON VIDEO

STARSHIP TROOPERS
Buena Vista, 18, 1997

ROBERT A. HEINLEIN's famous novel about a race of malevolent giant ants is brought to the movies with spectacular effects, much comic-strip carnage, and a pulp sensibility that suggests the tongue of the director Paul Verhoeven was planted firmly in his cheek. American TV actors Casper Van Dien, Dina Meyer, Denise Richards and Neil Patrick Harris play high-school friends in a fascist world, eager to play their part and zap the bugs' planet to blazes. A rental release.

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER
Entertainment Video, 18, 1997

THE scriptwriter of *Scream*, Kevin Williamson, now spins another variation: a tale of horror among teenage characters in North Carolina haunted by their panic reaction to a road accident. A vibrant cast, headed by Jennifer Love Hewitt and Freddie Prinze Jr, give the material their all. The seaside village setting is carefully depicted, and a few serious topics poke through (adult responsibilities, class warfare). Available to rent.

KISSED
High Flyers, 18, 1996

AND now for something completely different: Lynne Stopkewich's Canadian tale of a necrophiliac girl who makes gentle love to the best-looking

corpse at the local funeral parlour. This could have been wearisome and kinky. But the director plays it cool and poetic, helped by a seductive performance from Molly Parker. Available to rent.

M
BFI, PG, 1931

FRITZ LANG's first sound film is one of the great classics: a chilling drama based on the real-life case of a Düsseldorf child murderer, with Peter Lorre. Lang sets the viewer's teeth further on edge with his bleak depiction of a society where the police and criminals form a united front. An allegory of things to come?

MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA
BFI, E, 1929

THE man in question is Dziga Vertov, one of the wonders of Soviet cinema, at his peak in this dizzyingly inventive and eternally modern film record of one day in a Soviet city. Every possible cinema effect is wielded with a flourish, and Vertov investigates the relationship between image, filmmaker and screen as much as the sights of the city. This excellent release contains two prints: one with a score from the Alloy Orchestra that follows Vertov's musical instructions, the other with a commentary by the Russian film historian Yuri Tsivian.

"It will make you laugh and cry. And it will make you think long and hard about the last time you saw a movie this good."

★★★★★
"Sling Blade is virtuoso writing, acting and directing."

OSCAR WINNER 1997
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY



Sling Blade

Sometimes a hero comes from the most unlikely place.

STARTS TOMORROW

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Checks on the male

AS World Cup fever reaches its overblown nadir, the only surprise about the sporadic scenes outside the grounds is why anybody is surprised to see a man in a white shirt celebrating a Testosterone celebration. Testosterone in Twelve Parts comes in roaring and occasionally soaring. For what Mitchell Lister's Ian Smith has done is pull together a disparate team of performers who performers, given them the Testosterone and the Man. The men have each undertaken a separate role made around hitherto unexplored corners of one of the most important theatre spaces in the world.

Witnessed over by a quorum of Testosterone guides, we gaze at a man in a white shirt as he performs a Testosterone. Ian Smith's Testosterone is a Testosterone. Ian Smith's Testosterone is a Testosterone. Ian Smith's Testosterone is a Testosterone. Call them Testosterone. Call them Testosterone. Call them Testosterone.

Bull
Gaggen

s gold

LISTINGS

Jools goes to Ascot

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

LONDON

JONATHAN BURROWS: The British choreographer looks off a 12-month residency by writing William Forsythe and other leading choreographers to present works of their choice...



Alfred Brendel concludes a concerto cycle in Cheltenham

HERACLIS: Nick Philippou directs a memorial production of Euripides' tragedy using a translation by the late Kenneth McLaughlin...

THOMAS TROTTER: Acclaimed organist Thomas Trotter opens 300 years of organ music with works by Bach, Mozart, Schumann, Liszt, Paganini and Lionel Rogg...

TONY COE, JOHN HORLER AND MALCOLM CREESE: Three of Britain's most accomplished jazz musicians...

ELSEWHERE: ASCOT: Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra opens the Ascot Jazz Festival for the third year...

CHILTERNHAM: The Strakoska Versovska performs Polish composer Lutoslawski's Musique Funebre...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

CHICAGO: Revised version of the celebrated number 1 musical directed by Walter Bobrow...

CLOSER: The National Theatre production of Patrick Marber's hit play about doxy personal relations...

DOCTOR DOUBTLE: Philip Schofield plays the man who can talk to animals...

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE: Brenda Blethyn's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama is full of bawdy wit...

THE ICEMAN COMETH: Kevin Spacey plays Hickey in Howard Sackler's play...

OKLAHOMA!: The well-known musical stars Josefine Gabel, Hugh Jackman and Maureen Lipman...

SHAKESPEARE'S WILLAINS: Popstar Bruce Springsteen is the Popstar in Shakespeare's Willains...

WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND: British actor and playwright Alan Bennett's play...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies

NEW RELEASES: GREASE: PG. John Travolta serves again as Rydell High in this revival of the 1978 movie...

KURT & COURTNEY: (15): Controversial documentary by Nick Broomfield exploring the lives of rock stars Kurt Cobain and his feisty widow Courtney Love...

LOVE & DEATH ON LONG ISLAND: (15): Reclusive writer John Updike falls for American teen movie junkie Alison Pransky...

SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS: (12): Cargo plane pilot Harrison Ford is thrown together on a deserted island with neurotic magazine editor Anne Heche...

CURRENT: THE APOSTLE: (12): Engrossing portrait of a flawed Pentecostal preacher, memorably portrayed by Robert Downey Jr...

CITY OF ANGELS: (12): Reclusive angel Nicolas Cage falls for heart surgeon Meg Ryan...

JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD: (U): A film director (Marcelo Mastroianni) in his last performance journeys into the Portuguese past...

MINIC: (15): Mutant insects infest New York City's subway system...

THE SUBJECT OF MY AFFECTION: (R): Jennifer Aniston's gay room-mate will help bring up her baby...

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE: (15): Teenage life and love of Brad Pitt's character...

ARTS

Rush of blood to temple

Twenty-five years ago the Royal Ballet played a summer season at the Coliseum, part of a campaign to boost the company's profile...



The Royal Ballet in Makarova's staging of La Bayadere: "Whatever your pleasure, Petipa's 1877 spectacle has it all"

DANCE

La Bayadere Coliseum

There can be few better ways to open a season of ballet blockbusters than La Bayadere...

The Maryinsky conductor Valery Ovsianikov was in the pit on Tuesday's opening night...

tani's lavish sets and Yolanda Sonnabend's no less lavish costumes are exceedingly attractive on the Coliseum stage...

packed three scenes that gave her plenty of opportunity to act up a storm. Her Nikiya is both decorative and untouchable...

mere ghost in Solor's fevered imagination. Durante found herself exposed by Petipa's more testing choreography...

female who could happily dispatch her competition with a poisonous snake. Irek Mukhamedov was the man in the middle...

DEBRA CRAINE

Land of midnight fun

St Petersburg in June is the city that never sleeps. No street lighting is necessary at night...

and a concert performance of a neglected Prokofiev opera: Semyon Kotko. But the big event was the Gala Concert with Placido Domingo...

approach to Wagner that seized the attention. Eschewing the ponderous tempi of Germanic-inspired tradition...

was an ardent if squally Senta. The ingenuity of George Tsympin set — a cross-section of the Norwegian and Dutch boats...

scene of torrid lyricism and ends with an evocation of communal mourning in the wake of fearful brutality...

BARRY MILLINGTON

A rare bit of culture

The balding Nicholas Kenyon comes with a built-in dome, so his departure from Radio 3 to head the BBC's millennium coverage...

RADIO

Kenyon's six-year tenure as Controller of Radio 3 ends with considerable credit to his name...

What matters about Kenyon's tenure is the actual output. To take at random Monday of this week — a day Kenyon's departure was announced — I heard two Radio 3 programmes that were in the network's best tradition...

Critics who might point to the later as an example of dumbering down have short memories, for Radio 3 has never been the exclusive preserve of old music...

PETER BARNARD

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APOLLO, Shaftesbury Ave. CHICAGO THE MUSICAL. THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

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THEATRES

DOCTOR DOUBTLE. THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH. THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

JUST CAN'T HELP LOVIN' DAT SHOW! Daily Telegraph

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND by TOM STOPPARD. black comedy by PETER SHAFER

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THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND by TOM STOPPARD. black comedy by PETER SHAFER

Yankee do. WINNER! PULITZER PRIZE HOW I LEARN TO DRIVE

مركز من الأمل

POP Tuned to Tennessee

Up from the country

Nashville star Trisha Yearwood has yet to break in Britain, but it is only a matter of time, says Alan Jackson

I can hardly be claimed that Trisha Yearwood is a secret: a global television audience of 400 million people watched her sing How Do I Live, nominated as best original song, at the Oscars; an estimated four billion saw her closing performance at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. But few listeners in Britain would have a clue as to why she has been both compared to Barbra Streisand for her interpretative skills and courted by Pavarotti as a duetting partner.

The 34-year-old singer, wife of Mavericks bass player Robert Reynolds, phrases with the ease of a jazz veteran and projects as forcefully as a Broadway star. That all this news to us is the result of a single, simple fact: Yearwood is a country singer.

From Patsy Cline to Wynonna Judd, there have been similarly gifted artists — women whose gifts transcend the genre and make them vocalists foremost. Nashville heroines second — but our in-built suspicion of rhinestones and big hair has always kept them from receiving mainstream acclaim on this side of the Atlantic. Times have changed, though. The predominance of hardcore dance music has disenfranchised those listeners with a taste for emotive lyrics and a strong human voice, and sent them scuttling, albeit reluctantly, to where such virtues still abound — in country music.

Within this climate, LeAnn Rimes has been able to achieve huge acceptance from British record buyers this year, ironically thanks to her hit cover of Yearwood's aforementioned Oscar contender. And though Yearwood herself must feel inwardly miffed at having her commercial thunder stolen by a younger rival's inferior reading of the song, she may end up being the beneficiary. With Rimes still in the Top 20, radio programmers seem to have woken up to the potential of new-look female country: suddenly Yearwood's own forthcoming single, the sprightly, Linda Ronstadt-ish There Goes My Baby, is all over the radio too, and looks set to give her a first British Top 30 hit. The comparison with the one-time West Coast rock star turns out to be an apt one. Brought up in Monticello, Georgia, a town of just 2,500 people 60 miles from Atlanta, Yearwood absorbed first her

parents' pure country record collection, then that of her older sister. Accordingly, the soundtrack to her early adolescence was provided by Southern roots-rockers such as Bob Seeger and the Allman Brothers, and by Ronstadt herself. To this day, she remains a role model. "Like Patsy Cline and Streisand, she has this big, powerful voice and is a great interpreter, which is what I aspire to being," Yearwood says. "But also she's refused to be limited — she's done Broadway, recorded standards, Spanish-language music and children's songs. And I try to push the boundaries too."

This is surprising, perhaps, given a background of cautious conservatism. Yearwood's mother is a retired teacher, her father the retired president of the town bank. And despite an obvious interest in and aptitude for music, she first arrived in Nashville as a college student. "When I was 13, I'd decided that at 18 I'd get on a bus to California and just be Linda Ronstadt," she says. "My confidence dipped as I got older, though. There was no precedent in my town. The general feeling was, 'Yes, she's musically inclined, so she'll probably go get an education then come back to teach music or lead the church choir.'"

For security's sake, then, Yearwood decided to pursue her tertiary education. Nashville's Belmont College had programmes designed for those seeking a behind-the-scenes career in the music industry, and she enrolled as a business major, supporting herself first with a part-time job as tour guide at the Country Music Hall of Fame, then with a job as receptionist at MTM Records, "Mary Tyler Moore's Nashville tax write-off". The course was invaluable, teaching her everything from the copyrighting of songs to the finer points of artist management. "Plus you were being taught by people living and working in the industry, so that you were getting much more than a textbook analysis. People would say, 'You don't need to know all that stuff to be a good singer.' But to be responsible for yourself, you do."

It was seeing signed artists walk past her desk at MTM each day, living the career she wanted for herself, that finally



Stairway to stardom: Trisha Yearwood's records sell by the truckload in America, and despite the fact that British audiences have always been suspicious of country music, she looks likely to repeat that success over here

persuaded the naturally reticent Yearwood to call round local songwriters and ask if they needed a singer to demo new material for them — which led quickly to a recording deal of her own. "I thought, if I don't speak up, I'm going to spend my whole life answering phones and ordering correcting fluid and it's going to be my own fault." Meanwhile, the fact that most of those MTM artists sank without trace when MTM Records folded has given her a clear perspective on the vagaries of fame. "Not so long ago, one hit record could guarantee you a 20-year career, and you could always get played on the radio just by virtue of your name," she says. "Those days are gone though."

Now, you have to keep on making good record after good record. Yearwood's own career took off in textbook fashion — a debut single hit No 1, and her first album went platinum. Seven years' worth of hits and album outtakes are collected on the excellent retrospective album *Songbook*, a multi-million-seller in America. That it has quickly achieved sales of 40,000 in Britain within months bodes well for the singer, and for the release on Monday of a new MCA studio LP, *Where Your Road Leads*. The conservative college graduate within her won't be taking anything for granted, of course, but it looks as if Britain is about to wake up to an exceptional singing star.

ARTS

TOMORROW New pop albums reviewed

NEW CLASSICAL CDS

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

OTHMAR SCHOECK *Elegie Op 36* Andreas Schmidt CPO 999 472-2 *** £14.99 DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU has championed the late song-cycles of Othmar Schoeck, the Swiss contemporary of Honegger and Frank Martin, yet the earlier *Elegie*, one of the composer's greatest achievements, has hitherto been unavailable on disc. Andreas Schmidt puts this to rights in a sombre and reverent performance of this late-Romantic cycle of poems by Lenau and Eichendorff.

Schoeck could be considered the last great Lieder composer, and the slow-moving, uneasily Brahmsian harmonies of this farewell both to love and to the musical language of the 19th century frequently seems more serious than even his predecessor's *Four Serious Songs*. But, whether in the depths of the forest, in the glow of the sunrise or in the eyes of the storm, Schmidt brings true sustaining power to Schoeck's syllabic word-setting, while never allowing the words to pull down the melodic line. And the Musikkollegium Württemberg reveal the transparency of Schoeck's arrangements for instrumental ensemble.

OPERA

John Higgins

LORIN MAAZEL *Conducts Wagner Meier/Berlin Philharmonic RCA 09026 63143 2 *** £14.99* LORIN MAAZEL and Waltraud Meier performing together in Wagner produced one of the most exciting recital records of last year. Here they are back with the same composer, but this time the spotlight is on the maestro not the mezzo. Meier's sole contribution is the *Liebestod* from *Tristan*. Alas, Isolde suits her rather less well than the gusher ladies of the previous disc. Her voice lacks the sheen that Maazel draws from the Berlin Philharmonic.

The attraction of the issue lies in a crack band of virtuosos showing off under a conductor who, in his late sixties,

now has the silken touch as well as the flash baton. Maazel may have opted for Wagnerian lollipops but he brings them up fresh and succulent. The *Tannhäuser* overture leading on to the *bacchanale* in Venus's mountain home is stirring stuff and cause for regret that fewer top tenors than ever are now prepared to have a go at the title role. The shimmering prelude to Act 1 of *Lohengrin* serves as a reminder that this was the opera in which Maazel made his Bayreuth debut and, at the age of 30, became the youngest conductor to be engaged there.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

HANDEL *Concerti Grossi, Op 6 (Vol 2)* Collegium Musicum 90/Standage *Chandos Chaconne CHAN 0616 *** £14.99* WITH all the skill and experience present-day musicians bring to performance of the Baroque repertoire, you might think that the old-fashioned "sewing-machine" approach was a thing of the past. Alas it is still with us: the product of lack of imagination and preparation time.

Simon Standage and his excellent Collegium Musicum 90 ensemble could never be accused of such laziness: indeed, this completion of the set of Handel's Op 6 Concerti Grossi is a model of how to bring these works miraculously alive. Fast movements are never just that, but are articulated with care and precision; slow movements are phrased with expressive variety; while dance movements have exactly the graceful momentum they need.

It is this perfectly calculated sense of forward motion — the antithesis of the mechanistic approach — that characterises these performances. The players have the style in their bones. Standage adding delightful embellishments where appropriate at cadential points, and Nicholas Parle and James Johnstone enlivening the texture with neat keyboard figuration.

* Worth hearing
** Worth considering
*** Worth buying

Yankee doodle just dandy

So what if Leonard Slatkin and the Philharmonia did take their all-American programme to the wrong Birmingham? They got just as good an audience in the West Midlands as they would have had in Alabama, even on the Fourth of July. There was not as much flag-waving as there might have been — I saw only one, very small Stars and Stripes brandished in the stalls during *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*

CONCERT

Voices in the City Birmingham

— but the American conductor probably had more fun in explaining the subtleties to a British audience in Symphony Hall than he would have had in going through the Indepen-

dence Day routine back home in America.

Slatkin is rare among conductors in that he talks to an audience without condescension, without self-consciousness and with natural wit. The strategy of presenting the concert — down to giving the stenographer-percussionist a typographical A before Leroy Anderson's *The Typewriter* — was worked out in fine professional detail and with a discreet application of comedy. And it was in Birmingham, West Midlands, that one of America's favourite sopranos appeared as soloist in one of the most poetic of works inspired by its national ethos. Barbara Bonney was not immediately at ease in Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* but her intonation settled at a fairly early stage in an interpretation lacking authenticity neither in its most felicitously atmospheric passages nor in its slightly embarrassing prayerful sentiment towards the end.

There was Aaron Copland of course, represented by his over-glamorous *Rodeo* music rather than his very much fresher *Billy the Kid* — but rather than *Fanfare for the Common Man* or, worse still, the *Lincoln Portrait*. There was Leonard Bernstein at his very best in an outstandingly brilliant performance of his *Candide Overture*. And there was Charles Ives, whose partly Brahmsian and partly barber-shop *Variations on America* (in the cute orchestral version by William Schuman)



Slatkin: offering a discreet application of comedy

produced the right kind of smiles in spite of the imbalance between strings and woodwind at one point. Although this was clearly not an occasion for exploring the contemporary repertoire, the programme did include Ron Nelson's aptly archaic *Sarabande for Katherine in April* and John Corigliano's suitably dark-hued *Elegy in memory of Samuel Barber*. On the other hand, being the opening concert of Birmingham's Voices in the City Festival, it was an occasion for the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus to demonstrate patriotic fervour, by proxy though no less convincingly for that, in Dudley Buck's *Festival Overture on The Star-Spangled Banner* and Wilhouski's arrangement of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

GERALD LARNER

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CHANGING TIMES

DONMAR WINNER! PULITZER PRIZE 1998 HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE BY PAULA VOGEL "FRESH AND SHOCKING" "TOUCHING & EROTICALLY TENSE" LAST FOUR WEEKS UNTIL 8 AUGUST Presented by special arrangement with THE VINEYARD THEATRE, DARYL ROTH & ROY GABAY MICHAEL COLGAN, JENNY GALLOWAY HELEN MCCRORY, PHILIPPA STANTON KEVIN WHATELY are directed by JOHN CROWLEY ALSO BOOKING 10 - 29 AUGUST DIVAS AT THE DONMAR ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY & IZZ CALLAWAY, BARBARA COOK, WELDA STANTON & HER BIG BAND

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MORE THAN DAFFODILS

The new James Bond

BOOKS

HUMANITY FROM ON HIGH

Fay Weldon's stories

Worthy of Byron's envy: Ian McIntyre hails a new image for the Poet of the Lakes

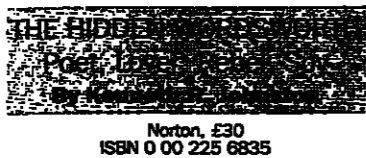
It was bliss for him

I'd better get the smell of cabbage out of the way first. Towards the end of my last term at Cambridge, my landlady's husband died, and I had to move back into college. The only rooms on offer were extremely poky and right above the kitchens - not an ideal position in the austerly-bound early 1950s.

Well, I've tried, but even so... Another book about the great man? Close to 1,000 pages and covering only the first 37 years of his life? By an American professor of English? It had better be good. It is, in fact, outstanding. Never again shall I link the Poet of Nature with overcooked brassica. The subtitle of *The Hidden Wordsworth* - "Poet, Lover, Rebel, Spy" - suggests an altogether more intriguing range of association.

"If I had an axe to grind when I started," Kenneth R. Johnston writes, "it was from feeling that there's more here than meets the eye." He wanted to write about the young Wordsworth because nobody had done so since the great French scholar Emile Legouis more than a century ago. And his hunch proved right - "my research has outstripped my hypotheses". Johnston presents what he describes as "the Wordsworth cover-up" - the systematic and successful efforts made by the poet to bury his "juvenile errors". He also demonstrates in convincing detail that although he covered them up, they did not disappear - "many of them stare us in the face from the pages of his greatest poetry, like purloined letters we have not seen."

Not all of this will go down well in the rearview of Grasmere. The clichéd image of the Poet of the Lakes ("eminently adaptable to tourism, gardening and calendar art") is shattered by the devastating scrutiny to which it is here subjected. Wordsworth's young life, Johnston asserts, "was full of secret caches of desire, emotion, excitement and shame - Byron might well have envied it". Johnston has looked more closely than most biographers have done

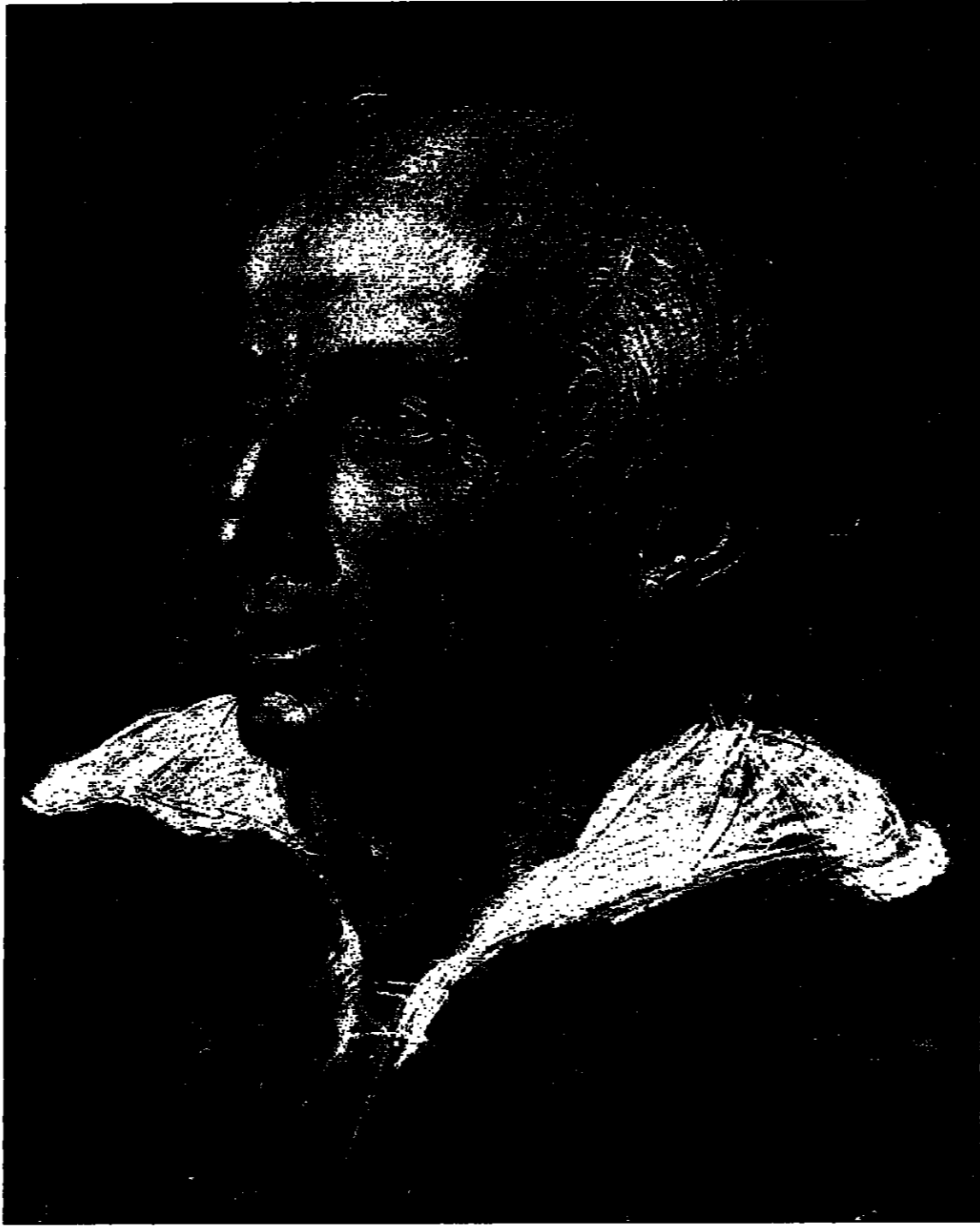


Northcote, £30 ISBN 0 00 225 6835

both at Wordsworth's relationship with his sister Dorothy and at his affair with Annette Vallon, the mother of his daughter Caroline. The suggestion that there is an incestuous undertone in the *Lucy* poems was first made more than 40 years ago. Johnston concedes that the matter is not susceptible to proof, but notes that the psychosexual interpretation placed more recently by Gregory Jones on the poem *Nutting* is one that "fits well" with the circumstances of Wordsworth's and Dorothy's life together in southern Germany in 1798-99.

Annette Vallon - "one of the best things that ever happened to Wordsworth" - commands Johnston's unrestrained admiration, principally for her constancy: she never married, and for the rest of her life styled herself *Madame*, or sometimes *Veuve* (Widow) William. Johnston considers at some length, although inconclusively, the possibility that in 1793 Wordsworth made a return visit to France in an unsuccessful attempt to see, marry or rescue Annette.

The most startling claim Johnston makes is that in 1798, Wordsworth was engaged, in Germany, in "clandestine, renegade actions against the (French) Revolution". The main evidence for this, published here for the first time, is an entry made by the Duke of Portland in the Home Office payment book for secret intelligence services rendered: "To paid Mr Wordsworth's Draft, 92/12/-". If Wordsworth was working secretly for Pitt's Government in the late 1790s, Johnston contends, it means that he and his poetry "existed much more within the confines of established social and cultural norms than the traditional romanticising of his poetical revolution acknowledges". Johnston's literary judgments are acute and generally expressed with some crispness. *Intern Abbey*, he



Wordsworth in 1818 - long after he may have acted as a spy - painted by Benjamin Robert Haydon

writes, "sounds like a Lord's Prayer uttered by Thomas the Doubter"; *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* is "a ballad raised to operatic proportions". Elsewhere we read of "the Miltonic depth-charges in Wordsworth's poetry". He is particularly good on the genesis of *Lyrical Ballads*. Wordsworth's switch to lyrics and ballads at that time he finds as startling as if his exact contemporary, the young Beethoven, "had turned from composing his First and Second Symphonies to writing songs or bagatelles based on five-finger keyboard exercises". Here and there, in exploring some of the byways of his tangled tale, Johnston goes slightly astray. At one

point, for instance, he has Richard Brinsley Sheridan managing the wrong London theatre, and he describes Muir of Huntershill as a Cambridge graduate, which will be ill-received in Glasgow. Nor, I think, can it be established that Robert Burns composed *Scots Wha Hae* on hearing of Muir's conviction for sedition - the evidence of Burns's correspondence with his publisher is that the song was written before the trial and that his phrase about "other struggles of the same nature, not quite so ancient", was a reference to recent events in France, where the Republic was just a year old. To envious European eyes, the fire-

power available to American academic scholarship sometimes seems to equal that deployed by the United States Sixth Fleet. Kenneth Johnston acknowledges not only the dedication of his secretary and the labours of two tireless research assistants but also the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. This sometimes proves a recipe for more literary gigantism. Not here. I hope the literary editor will allow me a little breathing space before sending me another book as massive as this. But it will, I suspect, be a long time before she sends me a better one.

Sense and sensation

Fay Weldon, in her many books, has carved out a territory that now seems distinctively her own. It's partly a matter of tone. She is a satirist and moralist who is as hard on women as she is on men, dealing with feminine self-deception, hypocrisy, vanity and wimpiness just as sternly as she berates men for greed, selfishness, pomposity and *Jolie de grandeur*. She leaves the mixture with epigrams and one-liners. The prose whips along at a crackling pace. Her narrators loftily look down on struggling mortals, much as God the Father used to be thought of as reclining on His cloud, trying with a javelin while He dictated a bit of the Bible and tried to make up His mind whether or not to hurl it at the labouring scribe.

Her omniscience puts one in mind of her great realist forebears, George Eliot and Doris Lessing, both of whom, similarly, always seem to be surveying the human race from high above.

In this new collection of short stories, Fay Weldon turns her ruthless eye on the anxieties and idiocies of modern culture with her customary glee, poking stern fun at the way we mess about with nature, family life, social hypocrisy and sensibilities, and then hypocritically exclaim at the calamitous results. Dystopian tales, most of these, they lament like Old Testament prophets our failure to love each other properly, to content with less, put up with lack. They bleakly refuse happy endings along with heroes and heroines. Here and there is a flash of hope. Sensible behaviour is the way forward. So a besotted woman is warned in time by an ex-wife to turn back from a disastrous affair. A woman longing for a baby dodges her scalpel-hungry surgeon and thinks, better luck next time. A writer learns not to fear technology but to manipulate it. There are quite a few stories warning us to combine science with kindness to one another.

Fay Weldon's ferociously un-sentimental writing reminds me of Doris Lessing's in more ways than one. In Lessing's *The Golden Notebook* her heroine, Anna Wulf, a blocked writer, writes lists of notes for short stories. It's the ideas that



Flamingo, £12.99 ISBN 0 00 225 6835



Weldon: cool and ironic

count, the moral dilemmas, the situations. The rag-bag of the heart does not have much place. Sometimes Weldon's writing is so cool and ironic you long for a bit more mess and heat. For me, the outstanding story in this collection is *Move Out Move On*, which depicts a first person narrator to describe a woman sorting out her things after a long marriage has ended.

The strength and beauty of the story come from the way that it pauses rather than dashing along, so that we feel the narrator's pain as she rummages through the detritus of a life, the way it lingers on material objects and cherishes them for being exactly what they are. God the omniscient judge comes down to earth, suddenly incarnate in Bakelite food bowls, odd gloves, stiffened leather gold bags, stray tent poles. How strongly, here, the reader feels the *lacrimae rerum* Virgil sang of, the sorrow and pity in things.

Bright and brittle verses that sing of love and loss

W. H. AUDEN wrote a famous couplet: "If equal affection cannot be/ Let the more loving one be me." That wish is taken up today in three new volumes, all of which deal with love and loss - and comprise too, one is tempted to add,

Over the past two or three years, it seemed that no conversation about new poets or the future of poetry (especially in America) could be complete without a reference to Anne Carson, a Canadian poet and essayist and a Professor of Classics in Montreal. *Glass and God* (Jonathan Cape, £8, ISBN 0 224 05117 2) - cut down (it seems a shame) from *Glass, Irony and God* - is her first book to be published in Britain, and its publication could hardly be more timely.

The signal red jacket and volcano motif don't quite correspond to the contents. Carson's writing

doesn't so much erupt (Ruth Padel does that more) as passionately juxtapose. In *The Fall of Rome: a Traveller's Guide*, she combines her own unease at being abroad with the phrases of tourist Italian, in a funny and woebegone manner.

In *The Glass Essay*, she shuttles between her feelings of rejection at the end of a love affair; a prickly, humorous account of staying with her mother in the north of Canada; and reading and thinking about "my favourite author", Emily Brontë. Outside is the bleak moor where she goes for walks; 50 miles away by taxi ride is the nursing home where her father has Alzheimer's; and everywhere, it seems, is her distress about the man she calls "Law".

The Glass Essay is an ideal vehicle for Carson's meditations on body, mind and soul, on ecstasy,

POETRY

aging and the fullness of an empty life (like Brontë's). I'm not sure it's poetry - it doesn't have the warps and anxieties and music of poetry, it doesn't express itself the way a poem does, but it is both a solid and a brilliant piece of writing. What remains with the reader are the predicament and the intelligence of the speaker, and the atmosphere of anguished calm ("Mother and I are chewing lettuce carefully") - much more than individual words or lines. Clearly, though, Anne Carson demands to be read.

Ruth Padel's previous book, *Fusewire*, was all fizz, zaniness and excess. *Rembrandt Would Have*

Loved You (Chatto & Windus, £7.99; ISBN 0 7011 6715 7) - though I don't care for the title - is a great improvement. The writing is still phenomenally energetic ("an autistic dogdom on a windy day" is a typical phrase; "a flying bit of vertical velcro" is how the speaker describes herself) but along with the hyperbolic rush is a greater aptitude for intimacy, characterisation and an affecting modesty: "Let your eyes close/ On all the small beer junk/ Around this room."

Indentation gives the thing a natty appearance too. Most of the poems are over-accounted for my taste. Sometimes they are like product placements, with everything singing to Padel's tunes, and "Billie Holiday burning away on/ The tape deck", for good measure. But the plainer poems like *Party*

Time or Scotch would have been beyond her or beneath her previously, as would the sorrowful pun on her roving-eyed man "who'd win a blue/ For ballroom ruthlessness".

John Sewell's poems in *Bursting the Clouds* (Jonathan Cape, £8; ISBN 0 224 05118 0) come in two kinds: routine nature lyrics and chronicles of motorised adultery. I don't know which I care for less. The "sex-poems" (Anne Stevenson's phrase) are in the crass and lifeless idiom of readers' letters, though some of them have a rewarding twist or sting. Their documentary - or pornographic - purpose quite overpowers them as poems. Still, Sewell too seems to have the consolation of having been "the more loving one".

MICHAEL HOFMANN

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The bravery of a killer

Orders of valour are often pinned on chests which may have borne pain but did not seek it. There is a tendency, understandable but sentimental, to call anyone brave who has simply shown dignity in distress rather than reserving the title for those who have taken a conscious decision to risk their lives for a noble cause. If any citizen of these islands fully deserves to be called brave it is Sean O'Callaghan. A volunteer in the Irish Republican Army, his bravery was to betray it.

While in the IRA he was on active service, but his actions in the field were sordid murders. The death by mortar volley of a female police officer is hardly an act to boast of. And no one has become more aware of it than O'Callaghan. As this painfully honest account makes clear, innocent blood was the solvent of the author's youthful ideals. The reality which he found in Ulster was a brutal ethnic war of Catholic against Protestant. It was meant to "sicken" the Brits of their ties to the Province but it sickened O'Callaghan to his heart. O'Callaghan walked away



Bantam Press, £16.99 ISBN 0593 042859

from this slaughter, and could have lived quietly far from the violence to which he had contributed. But instead he sought to return, and work from within the IRA to subvert its terrorist campaign. He chose as an act of contrition to turn informer. By opting for this life in the shadows O'Callaghan risked everything. The consequences of exposure would be torture, death and family disgrace. But, moved by a need to atone in the most concrete way possible, O'Callaghan took that risk. *The Informer* is the most detailed picture ever to emerge of life within the IRA. The crisp and compellingly written narrative reveals the hidden lives of the men who would be ministers in Northern Ireland. It is not very long since Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness were the ruthless leaders of a murderous gang plotting to kill their future Sovereign.



Sean O'Callaghan in 1983, when it was alleged he was plotting to kill Roy Jenkins and Margaret Thatcher

It is not necessary to have prior knowledge of Ireland to find this book fascinating. O'Callaghan writes with starkness and fluency which carries the reader at a lick through the remarkable episodes of his double lives. The structure of the book allows for the easy absorption of vignettes whose detail convinces utterly. For some readers the prospect of buying a book which will earn money for a man

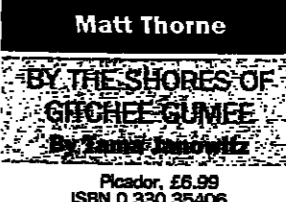
who has murdered may be too much to stomach. But O'Callaghan has not only apologised, but atoned, and then served his sentence. While other terrorists ease themselves into limousines, O'Callaghan remains on the run, without state protection or dowry. The least that he deserves is that his story be read by anyone who wants to understand the conflict in our islands which still causes so much pain.

Bye-yawatha

Crazy clans loom large in American literature. But the Slivenowicz are wicker than most. Evangeline has five children from five different fathers, each prone to peculiarly precocious behaviour. By page one six-year-old Leopold is cooking a soufflé, and much of the subsequent fun comes from wondering what these kids will do next.

Maud, the 19-year-old narrator, takes a while to identify herself. Overshadowed by the antics of her brothers and sisters, her character emerges through conversations with the various men that come into their lives. Maud's main topic of conversation is the sex life of animals. Her descriptions are peppered with strange coinages such as "coral seas" for lips, "mashie niblick" for male genitalia and "moofy-poufy" for fellatio. Conversations are also subverted by the skewered questions of her brother, Leopold, who misunderstands anything he's told.

Alongside Bret Easton Ellis and Jay McInerney, Janowitz came to fame as part of the Eighties Blank Generation: young novelists bringing a new cocaine-encrusted glitz to the age-old theme of spiritual isolation in America. While Janowitz has continued to tackle similar subjects to her peers, - particularly in *A Cannibal*



Placid, £6.99 ISBN 0 330 35406

in Manhattan - there is something more arch and mannered about her tone.

Beginning at top speed and continuing at this pace throughout, *By the Shores of Gitchee Gumee* inevitably becomes wearying. After Maud and two of her brothers ditch the rest of the family and head out to LA intending to sell their bodies to support themselves, the prose loses much of its sparkle. There is a dark undercurrent to much of the material, with Leopold being left in the charge of a child molester and Maud frequently in sexual danger. But the constant comedy suggests we aren't to take any of this too seriously. Like Nicholson Baker's recent *The Everlasting Story of Nory*, this novel seems a little too insular, written for one family rather than a general audience. After 300 pages with the Slivenowicz, it's hard not to feel empathy for the unfortunate Bill Brinkman, whose encounter with the family ends with him exhausted, drugged and tied to a chair.

مكتبة الأمل

RIVIERA LOVE STORY

Fitzgerald's friends

BOOKS

BAD CHEMISTRY

Scientific spats

A radical reworking of Hazlitt's writing style

John Bayley argues that the great essayist's gift is too varied to fit even the most elegant straitjacket of modern criticism

Hazlitt enthusiasts both, and happily identifying in the essayist their own nostalgic vision of true radicalism...

ary France, had triumphed again, confounding the monarchs and magnates of reaction who had sought to topple him...

Hazlitt's enthusiasm for Napoleon is all of a piece with his radicalism, and goes with that half-conscious worship of political power...

News had come of Napoleon's victory at the Battle of Austerlitz. "I walked out in the evening, and as I returned, saw the evening star set over a poor man's cottage...

For both Foot and Paulin this is a magic moment, as it undoubtedly was for Hazlitt too. The great radical, the creation of revolution-

identify the author's ideology and politics in all aspects of the way he writes.

It could be made out to be as true of D. H. Lawrence as of Mein Kampf, but with a writer as various as Hazlitt it creates a misleading impression. Like Montaigne, Hazlitt has a mind and a manner which is enjoying freedom and flexibility of its thought among the queries and ponderings of verbal conversation...

Tom Paulin frequently, and rather disarmingly, admits this him-

THE DAY-STAR OF LIBERTY William Hazlitt's Radical Style By Tom Paulin

Faber, £22.50 ISBN 0 571 17421 3

self. Quoting Hazlitt's essay On the Qualifications Necessary to Success in Life, Paulin observes that we can feel the essayist's "prose tendons" stretch - a good image of the kind of ease Hazlitt's syntax enjoys in its own deployment...

bulk, and shews, and shews of a man, and the absurdity, the unthinking confidence inspired by these and without an atom, a shadow of the mens divinitor, he shall strut and swagger and vapour and jostle his way through life...

Hazlitt was charmed by the scientist Priestley's contention that matter is not inert, so that we can never tell "the character it will take in new circumstances". Hazlitt applied it to himself and it is the point of his style, which acts, as Hazlitt said of Shakespeare's, by "the continual composition and decomposition of its elements". These are arts that "happen in the moment", with an immediacy that is precisely the charm of Hazlitt's

own way of picking up and dropping the topics for his essays. Naturally, Paulin ignores the most revealingly "decomposed" and irresponsible of Hazlitt's works - Liber Amoris, that outpouring of his unrequited obsession with a girl - dismissing it as "Post-Modernist having-it-all" irony. Surely an absurd judgment. Like it or not, Liber Amoris possesses in exaggerated form all Hazlitt's characteristically and subjectively dramatic qualities, as if Shakespeare's Romeo or Troilus were pouring out the sweets and bitterness of their discoveries about love and displaying in vibrant prose all its intensities and illusions.

The more we read Hazlitt the more we feel the pervading originality of his own way of being Shakespearean; and although a critic nowadays might attempt to discover in Shakespeare an un-out-

ed political radical, he could scarcely claim that this is revealed in every motion of the Bard's style.

Even Hazlitt's appreciation of pictorial art is claimed by Paulin as evidence of his hero's ideology, notably the Poussin painting of the giant Orion striding towards the dawn which will restore his sight. The People on the March, obviously, with the guide on the giant's shoulders representing Napoleon?

Keats, who revered Hazlitt, loved the picture; and Keats held impeccably radical views. Unfortunately, they were no help to his poetry, and Paulin is misguided to quote one of the very worst bits of Endymion. Hazlitt, on the contrary, about to discuss Poussin, quoted one of the poem's best lines: "Blind Orion hungry for the morn". Is that also evidence of a "Radical Style"? No doubt Paulin could find it so.

Put two scientists together in a book and you get a great row. Roy Porter looks at a good idea that just misses

I think, therefore I am ready to dispute

It's easy to see the appeal of science wars for the seasoned American scientific writer, Hal Hellman. They feature some of the world's masterminds - Galileo, Newton, Darwin - whose battles for truth established the modern intellectual world picture: the Sun-centred system, the law of universal gravitation, the theory of evolution.

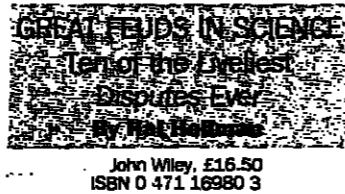
Such scientific polemics convey some of the epic quality of Napoleon's campaigns - or the World Cup final.

But then there is something intriguing - or, to speak plain, positively disturbing - about the occurrence of great scientific feuds at all. After all, don't scientists like to tell us that scientific inquiry is cool and calm, the candid quest for truth for truth's sake?

Science claims to possess an objectivity that raises it above the petty personal quarrels of lesser mortals. So how come there has been such unseemly scientific rivalry, such rancour?

The "sciences are never at war", claimed Edward Jenner around 1800, but even then fields such as chemistry were split down the middle by national jealousies, following Lavoisier's chemical revolution.

All too often, in priority claims over discoveries or in accusations of plagiarism, scientists have descended to lies, chicanery, abuse ("your scurvy book") and childish hurling of names - though it was witty of T.H. Huxley to dub the anatomist Richard Owen "a lying Orthognathus Brachycephalic Bimanous Pithecus". Science's titans have often refused to speak to each

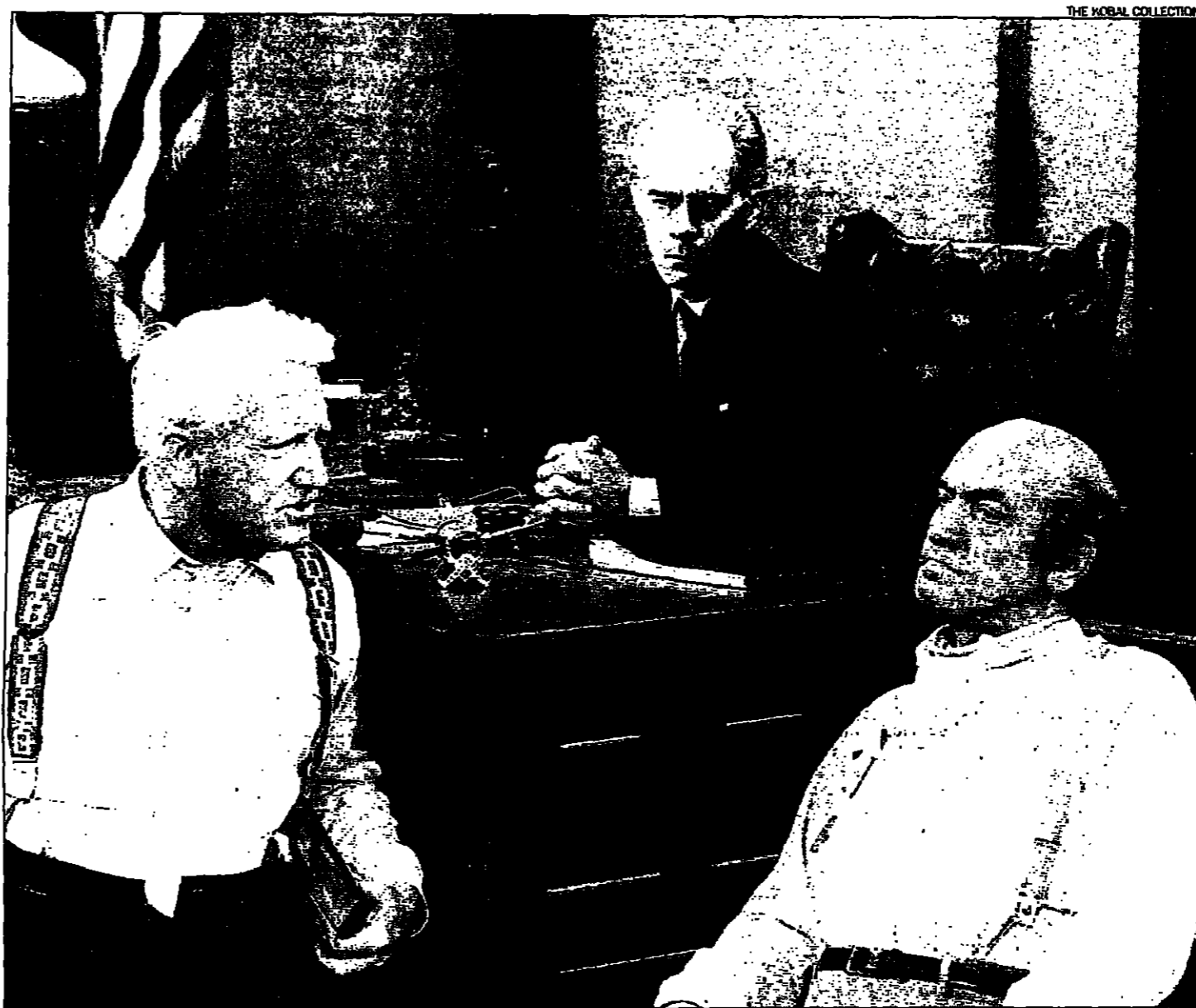


John Wiley, £16.50 ISBN 0 471 16980 3

other - and sometimes even fought duels. A taste of this comes across in Great Feuds in Science. For example, Hellman brings to life the astonishing 40-year brawl between Isaac Newton and his German rival, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, which began as a priority dispute over the calculus - we would now adjudicate the wrangle by saying that Newton had the inspiration first, but Leibniz pipped him with the publication.

Lower on the scale of violence, but perhaps more scandalous given that it is a contemporary matter, is the altercation between various members of the Leakey family and the American anthropologist Donald Johanson regarding the dating and interpretation of early hominid finds in the East African Rift Valley, disputes that have descended into pettiness (denial of access to evidence) and a refusal to share the same platform.

Yet Hellman never seizes the chances his subject affords in a book which is hit-and-miss in its subject-matter, episodic in structure, and lacks a clinching argument. For one thing, he casts his net too wide. As well as feuds within science - a topic big enough in its own right - he has sketched in the battles scientists have fought



Science on trial: Spencer Tracey fights a ban on teaching evolution in the film Inherit the Wind - based on a real case in the 1920s

for public acceptance, mainly in the teeth of religious opposition.

The trouble is that the set-pieces of Galileo being silenced by Pope Urban VIII, Huxley defending Darwin against Bishop Wilberforce, and the Scopes trial in 1920s Tennessee, in which Bible-belt bigots got the teaching of evolutionism banned, have been staged before, and Hellman has no take of his own to add to the "warfare of science against theology" scenario.

One wishes he had probed more deeply into the dynamics of intra-scientific feuds, and ventured some generalisations. Are some sciences more feud-prone than others? Why have feuds been avoided in certain cases? Darwin and Wallace, for instance, behaved graciously over

their simultaneous discovery of the theory of natural selection - but English scientists have not always acted like gentlemen. Just how important are factors such as international rivalry - a topic touched on with Newton and Leibniz but to which justice is hardly done?

And what about personal, psychological and political forces? Hellman depicts, for example, the brutal challenge to Margaret Mead's studies launched by Derek Freeman in the 1980s. In her Coming of Age in Samoa (1928), the American anthropologist had claimed that Samoan values made adolescence easy, since they permitted early sexual experimentation, quite unlike the repressive, anxiety-ridden United States. Her book chimed with

the times and won her lasting fame. With a trenchancy verging on rudeness ("there isn't another example of such wholesale self-deception"), Freeman shot Mead down, though seemingly waiting till after her death to do so. Do we see a macho academic lordling it over a woman? Or a backlash against Sixties permissiveness? Hellman hints at such, but never provides the sustained analysis which would have proved genuinely illuminating.

How important in such feuds are factors one might call Freudian? This question is suggested by Hellman's account of the war between the two great American palaeontologists, Othniel Charles Marsh and Edward Drinker Cope. Both came from affluent families but lost their

mother early. The will to power over Nature, which each displayed, seems like a quest for a substitute mother. One might ask if naturalists are particularly prone to vituperativeness because they see themselves as lone conquerors of lost worlds. Again, Hellman doesn't take such suggestions very far.

The book closes with a vignette: the row in the 1970s within the American Psychiatric Association as to whether homosexuality was a mental disease. How was it settled? By a postal ballot among its members! What does this tell us about the role of feuds within science, or of the processes by which error yields to truth? As with much else in this patchy book, the issue is raised but hardly resolved.

Getting under a writer's skin

A novelist's non-fiction is the place he or she can come clean about obsessions that weave through their stories, the cries that find expression in characters' voices. These new collections of essays take us behind the scenes of two of England's most distinctive and imaginative writers: both make compulsive reading.

In Don't, pieces mostly culled from the London Review of Books, Jenny Diski brings her tough, supple intelligence to writers as various as Julie Burchill and Roald Dahl, and to experiences ranging from a "creativity" seminar for global executives in Zermatt to the attempt to finish a novel at a health farm in Hampshire.

Diski's internal contradictions make her indispensable: she is funny and melancholy, cynical and compassionate, an affectionate mother and a determined loner. She is equally good on light and darkness - pieces on Jeffrey Dahmer, Holocaust survivors and horror movies illustrate her view that

Sylvia Brownrigg



Granta, £9.99 ISBN 1 862 07 172 1



Vintage, £9.99 ISBN 1 860 49 455 2

"nowhere in the world is darker than the recesses of the human imagination" - and on the eerie glow of fame. (Her sceptical view of Diana, five years before, is bracing.)

In several accounts we see Diski pursuing the white emptiness she chased so brilliantly in Skating to Antarctica. Her ideal writing environment is somewhere between the health farm and a convent: "At the base of my mind, a small white room with a bed, desk, books, silence, meals appearing, no one around, exists as a Platonic form."

She is unblinking when facing madness or death: the book ends with a comic meditation on going through eternity at Highgate Cemetery. As she writes, "I suppose the world divides into those who look and those who look away." Diski is a cool, determined looker.

Michele Roberts's pieces in Food, Sex and God are stylistically more varied. For a novelist so interested in form, and whose prose has a poet's rhythmic lyricism, Roberts's criticism is often chatty in tone.

Reading these gives the sensation of sharing a conversation with Roberts on the perpetually intertwined subjects of writing, language and imagination. For fans of her fictions, there are intriguing accounts of the thoughts behind Daughters of the House and Flesh and Blood; while Roberts the generous teacher lends views on the writing process and the perils of self-censorship.

Fellow feminists will be eager to read Roberts's sensitive and scholarly explorations of Lessing, Warner and Byatt. And as a writer with a fluid, bisexual sensibility, Roberts is acute on gender and sexuality in Jeanette Winterson's writing, describing her work as "an ambivalent, loitering, toing and froing search that circles around questions of identity and the self, explored through love and sex."

A subject that draws both writers is Anais Nin. Roberts is characteristically sympathetic in her assessment of Nin, while Diski's comment on the implications of Deirdre Bair's biography is "to wonder in dismay if solipsism hasn't become the plughole down which this century will gurgle."

Both these books will feed your thought. The simple word is: do.

and loss

Bye-yawatha



Young, gifted and in love: Sara and Gerald Murphy in France

Tender are the nights and days of the lost generation lovers

When American expatriates Sara and Gerald Murphy discovered Antibes' sleepy seaside Hotel du Cap in 1923, they convinced the owner to keep it open for them during the summer with a minimal staff. Little did they dream that it would become one of the world's most glamorous spots.

They had simply fallen in love with the turquoise waters of the Côte d'Azur while visiting their friend Cole Porter, and had decided to find a villa where they could settle with their three young children. Now, 75 years later, comes Amanda Vaill's fascinating, thoroughly documented biography of the legendary couple who were drawn to France for its exhilarating postwar artistic scene.

Contrary to the book's subtitle, the author takes us through an enduring romance between two non-conventional offspring of wealthy businessmen with a shared vision of life's "inherent loveliness" (as Archibald MacLeish called it, showing that the Murphys were never really "lost" at all).

Best known as Fitzgerald's models for Dick and Nicole Diver in Tender is the Night, Gerald (a handsome dandy, heir to the Mark

Lanie Goodman EVERYBODY WAS SO YOUNG Gerald and Sara Murphy A Lost Generation Love Story By Amanda Vaill Little Brown, £22.50 ISBN 0 316 64550 8

Cross leather company) and Sara Wiborg (a well-travelled Midwestern beauty and millionaire's daughter) had a magnetic originality, neatly summed up in the novel's opening pages: "They have to like it." Diver's friend tells an ingénue on the Riviera. "They invented it." But fiction aside, the Murphys, first introduced in Calvin Tomkins's tantalising but slim 1962 biography, Living Well is the Best Revenge, also had an undeniable impact on their famous friends' lives. Their circle embraced everyone from American literary heavyweights - the Fitzgeralds, Hemingways, Dos Passos, Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley - to the most important figures of the European

avant-garde: Cocteau, Léger, Stravinsky, Diaghilev and Picasso, who drew and painted Sara, his secret muse.

Particularly revealing are the previously unpublished letters documenting their courtship. "You are in my inmost heart & mind & soul, - where I never thought I'd let anyone go," wrote Sara. An unlikely match, Gerald had been a family friend, five years Sara's junior, who, as Vaill suggests, fought a strong homosexual impulse that remained repressed until his later disappointing middle years back in America.

Readers may be surprised to learn (in a cursory sweep at the book's end) that Murphy was rediscovered as a precursor of Pop Art during the 1960s, his visionary influence even more apparent in a 1974 posthumous retrospective at New York's Museum of Modern Art. He produced only 16 canvases between 1922 and 1930, out of which a mere six have survived.

But the gaiety of their charmed Riviera life would come to an abrupt end when the Murphys' son, Patrick, had tuberculosis diagnosed in 1929. From that moment on, Gerald never painted again. They temporarily closed up the vil-

la and moved to a Swiss sanatorium, where friends such as Hemingway and Parker continued to visit. By 1933, the Murphys departed for America definitively, when another cruel fate struck: their older son, Bath, fell ill with measles, which turned into meningitis, and he unexpectedly died. A year and a half later, Patrick finally succumbed to his illness at the age of 15. "The golden bowl is broken," Fitzgerald wrote to a grief-stricken Gerald, "but it was golden."

By the time Tender is the Night was published in 1934, Fitzgerald's characters had evolved into a portrait of his own drunken binges and Zelda's nervous breakdown.

Gerald confided: "I know... that what you said in Tender is the Night is true. Only the invented part of our life - the unreal part - has had any scheme or beauty."

"It was like a great fair and everybody was so young," Sara Murphy, who lived to 92, would later say, looking back on that glittering era of extraordinary friendships.

Vaill's book is proof that the Murphys' "true" story, far more moving than Fitzgerald's flawed masterpiece, is a haunting tribute to courage, devotion and an irretrievable dream lived to its fullest.

Bargains of the week: Stay in a Domesday Book farmhouse; visit the opera and ballet in Ljubljana; tour Cairo and Jerusalem on a single trip



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HOLIDAY parks in Cornwall are available in mid-summer from Hosesons. Choose from a place beside the sea at Kennack Sands or a country park near Bodmin Moor. Both have pools and nine-hole golf courses and cost from £50 a person a week, based on six sharing. Details: 01502 500500.

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Chester Zoo plus boats, steam trains and historic houses can be seen free if you book two nights at Consort's Cross Lanes Hotel between Wrexham and Chester. B&B is £42 a night, while midweek dinner, B&B with champagne for two costs £89. Details: 0345 660418.

STUDENTS come down from Oxford this week but the city will be alive with fairs, exhibitions, music and drama this summer. The YHA offers cheap accommodation for family and individual members in a Victorian house from £9.50 for under-18s to £12.50 for adults. Details: 01865 762997.

NEED revitalising? If so, a free pack of Mohon Brown comes with two-night breaks at Arcadian Hotels. Choose from 12 luxury hotels from Yorkshire to Jersey and pay from £65 a night for dinner, B&B. Details: 0800 174125.

POPCORN and a movie of your choice to watch in your room are among the extras included in weekend breaks at three Central London hotels. A double room at The Chesterfield, Rubens and Montague for two nights will cost a couple £269 plus VAT, with full breakfast and one dinner. Details: 0171-491 2622.

EUROPE

FERRY fares are being chopped instead of necks to mark Bastille Day, with Sea-France offering an £89 five-day return fare on the Dover-Calais route for a car and four passengers, and a £129 standard return. You must book and pay by July 14. Details: 0990 711711.

FOOTBALL fans who missed the chance of abusing referees at the World Cup can at least kick the beds they slept in at Le Manoir de Gressy, their base just north of Paris, after the tournament. Discounts for two-night breaks until August 15 reduce dinner, B&B to £50 a night. Details: 00 331-6026 6800.

EVEN better, but more expensive, is the St Denac Golf & Country Club at Le Baule, Brittany, where the England squad stayed. Crystal Premier France has an apartment for four from July 18 for £1,099; high season apartments start at £22 a person. Details: 0181-241 5030.

THE Lemon Grove Studios on Corfu are available for £269 for a week from July 20 with Odyssey-Olympic. Fly

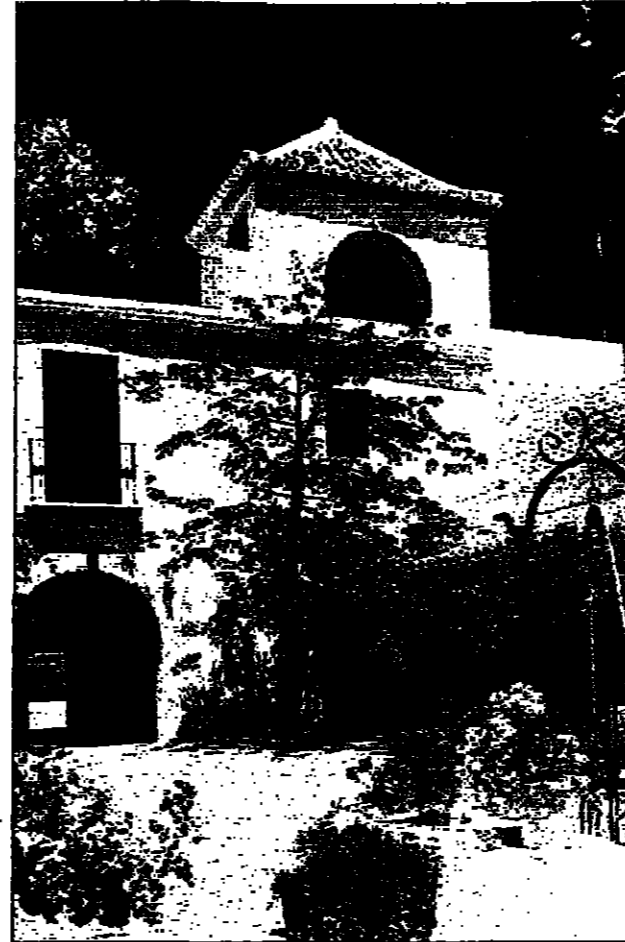
from Gatwick but don't get the pip if you are squeezed between other properties. Details: 0181-343 9090.

RHODES for a fortnight for £299 on a Thomson holiday leaving from Newcastle on July 29 is among peak season packages still available from Lunn Poly. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

LJUBLJANA summer breaks are on offer from Slovenija Pursuits with the chance to enjoy opera and ballet and the city's rich architecture for £360 including return flights from Heathrow and three nights' B&B. Details: 01763 852646.

HIGH season on the Costa del Sol is still on offer from Advantage Travel Centres with a fortnight's half-board from August 2 for £519 from Gatwick. Details: 0870-909 0070.

A HACIENDA hotel in Andalusia, set among sunflower and cotton fields and within easy reach of Seville and small historic towns, is available for five-night breaks at a £200 saving from Kirker Holidays. Fly from Heathrow, collect an air-conditioned car at Seville for £678 with half-board and wine. Details: 0171-231 3333.



Take a break at Hacienda San Rafael in Andalusia

LONG HAUL

INDO-CHINA, long a battleground, is now calm enough to be included in a 15-day tour with Destination Far East. The trip, available from several dates in the next month, starts with a flight to Bangkok and includes Angkor Wat and other historic sites in Cambodia, plus Vientiane, Saigon and Hanoi, and costs £1,812.

More traditional ten-day holidays combining Bangkok and a beach resort are also available from the company for less than £500. Details: 0171-730 7788.

BEIJING is on offer from Campus Travel for £288 if you fly from Heathrow by August 31 and return within three months. Details: 0171-730 5111.

JERUSALEM and Cairo are combined in a rare double bill from The Imaginative Traveller. The week-long coach tour, which follows a flight from Heathrow on July 15, also takes in the Dead Sea and the Golan Heights and costs £595 with hotel accommodation and some meals. Details: 0181-742 8612.

TENNESSEE can be explored on a fortnight's self-

drive itinerary planned by Travelpack and costing £458 for hotel accommodation en route. Flights and car hire extra. Details: 0990 747101.

A PADDINGTON to Peru special for £613 return is being launched in September by Journey Latin America to mark the 40th anniversary of Paddington Bear. Travel on the Heathrow Express, fly to Lima and enjoy the first night's stay as part of the package. Details: 0181-747 3108.

THE GALAPAGOS Islands can be visited at a £1,000 saving because of a late cancellation. But the ten-day trip with Worldwide Journeys & Expeditions, starting with a flight from London on July 25, will still cost £1,995. Details: 0171-381 8636.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

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As Welshman warms up for Royal Birkdale legendary American decides to withdraw

Woosnam enjoying his shut-eye

Nicklaus calls time on his Open sequence

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IT MAY be the case in Parliament that the eyes have it but on the banks of Loch Lomond the eyes have it. The eyes in this case belong to Ian Woosnam, who is something of a specialist north of Hadrian's Wall at this time of the year, having won three Scottish Opens the week before the Open Championship.

He leads the Standard Life World Invitational by one stroke after a round of 67, four under par, that was as neat and tidy as the Welshman's golf always is when he is near his best. It was full of powerful, crisp shots hit with his easy swing.

"He's a class act," Gary Orr, one of his playing partners, said. "I would love to play with players like him every week. He made it look easy out there. I cannot think of a bad shot."

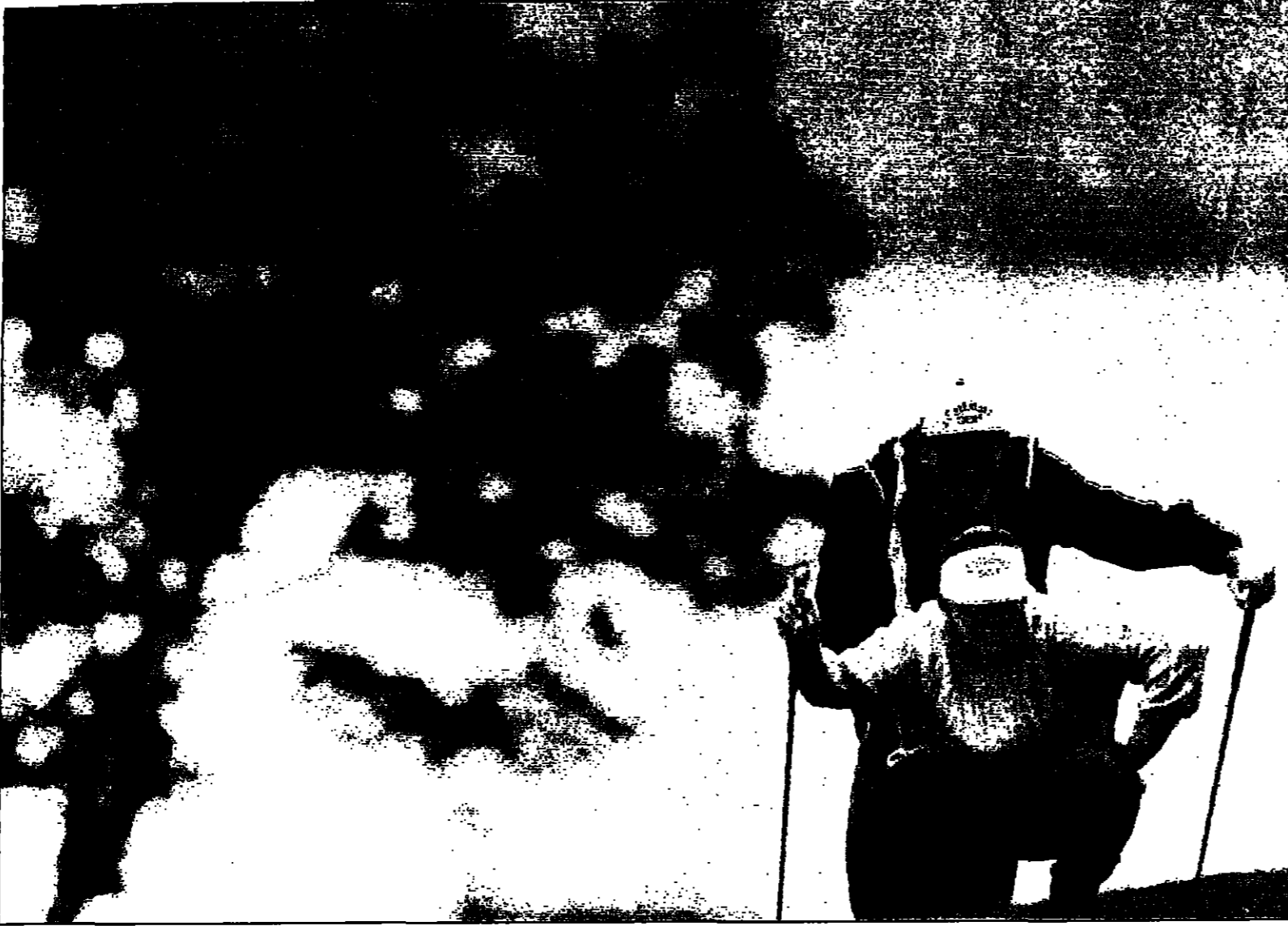
Woosnam sank a 25-foot putt for a birdie at the 16th and hit a peach of a seven-iron to eight feet, from where he holed the putt, on the last. To have played the last four holes in two under, as Woosnam did, is something that Justin Rose must have envied.

The young amateur, who will be 18 in three weeks, dropped two strokes on the 15th, one on the 16th and two more on the 18th. Thus he went from four over par to nine over and in the competition within a competition among the amateurs, Rose's 80 put him some way behind the 73 of Matt Kuchar, the US Amateur champion, and the 71 of Sergio Garcia, the Amateur champion.

Watching Woosnam play so well may have inspired Orr, one of three men who went round in 68. David Howell was another. Costantino Rocca has had a wretched season but Howell has been playing well, failing to reach the last two rounds only twice in 15 starts and coming seventh and eighth in two of his past four tournaments.

Woosnam, you would have thought, has competed long enough at the highest level to know just about everything there is to know in golf. But in Ireland last week, he discovered that, on occasions, he could not read the correct line of a putt.

It is astonishing to think that a man who has won one major championship, competed successfully in others and won dozens of lesser tournaments around the world can believe a putt breaks from right to left when, in fact, it goes the other way.



Montgomery, who lost a play-off in Dublin on Sunday, has help from his caddie as he lines up his putt at the 7th yesterday during a round of 72

Yesterday, Woosnam was so uncertain of his ability to assess the line, that once he had addressed the ball and was about to hit it, he would close one eye and hope that what he could see with the other was the correct way to the hole. Any suggestion that this was a scientifically approved method was dispelled when Woosnam revealed that he used different eyes on different putts (and sometimes on the same putt), and was not sure whether the information he received was any use anyway.

Woosnam was one of the early starters who profited from having the best of the weather. The rain started at lunchtime and by mid-afternoon the banks of Loch Lomond were muddy, damp, depressing and far from bonny.

By then Nick Faldo had withdrawn suffering from a medial epicondylitis, more commonly known as "golfer's elbow".

Faldo had hit about 15 balls on the practice ground when something went boom in his right elbow and he felt a

stabbing pain. He has been told to rest his arm for two days. "I've never missed an Open," Faldo said, "and I hope it doesn't come to that. I am hopeful I can start swinging a club at the weekend."

Faldo's withdrawal meant that the mischief pairing of him with Sandy Lyle, with whom he used not to get on, and Jesper Parnevik, who is alleged to have said some rude things about Faldo before a recent Open.

This puts me in mind of some interesting pairings in tournaments. Derek Small, now the professional at Dumbarton, was paired more than once with Bill Large. There have been sightings of a Hooker and a Slicer playing together, and talking of Donald Slicer prompts the memory of a Duck and a Donald being paired with one another in an amateur event recently.

The way it was raining here yesterday afternoon, Duck would have felt right at home.



Woosnam strides in pursuit of another booming drive

By JOHN HOPKINS

JACK NICKLAUS and the Open Championship go so well together it is difficult to come to terms with his announcement yesterday that he will not compete at Royal Birkdale next week. An Open without Nicklaus will be like a hole without a tee or a green that has no flag on it.

After all, Nicklaus has played in every Open since before decimalisation, before Harold Wilson was Prime Minister, before even London was centre-piece of the Swinging Sixties and England won the World Cup. Some people probably believe that he invented the Open, he and Old Tom Morris and a few other elderly Scots. Come to think of it, he did didn't he?

It seems that way because Nicklaus has competed in every Open since the one at Troon in 1962. Furthermore, he has won three of them and finished in the top ten on a further 15 occasions. In fact, between the Opens of 1963 and 1980 inclusive, he never finished worse than twelfth.

Nicklaus is a synonym for longevity in golf in a way that is quite exceptional. He has competed in 154 consecutive major championships as a professional, a record that few golfers are likely to approach never mind pass.

The man nearest to him is Nick Faldo, who has played in 44 in succession, but his chance of extending this run is now in doubt because he withdrew from the event at Loch Lomond yesterday, citing an injured elbow, and may not be fit for the Open.

"I feel that the preparation time and physical demands which are required to be competitive on a continuous basis are difficult for me to satisfy at this time," Nicklaus, 58, said. "Therefore, I have elected not to play in the British Open and the US PGA Championship in 1998. I didn't want to end the streak by having it said that Jack Nicklaus could no longer play the game. I wanted to end it on my own terms."

These words have been expected for some time but, oddly, not at this moment. At present he is actually playing very well. In the Masters, at Augusta, Nicklaus was sixth, finishing with a 68, and in the US Open he came 43rd. He has made the cut in ten of his



Nicklaus: hip problems



Faldo: elbow injury

past 12 major championships, but his body is showing signs of age. He has worn away the cartilage in his hips so that it is now only one millimetre thick instead of four. "I have an awfully hard time walking," Nicklaus said at the Masters in April. "I get to about 14 or 15 holes and my hips have about had it."

It remains Nicklaus's intention to compete in major championships in future. He will probably play at Augusta for some years to come because the ethos of that event includes old codgers and he has said he wants to play at St Andrews in the 2000 Open.

That would be the perfect setting for him to bring down the curtain once and for all on his career in the Open, just as Arnold Palmer did in 1995. The fact remains, though, that it will be odd to be at Royal Birkdale, where Nicklaus has competed in five of the seven Opens staged there, and not see that familiar, stoop-shouldered walk that slightly sheepish wave. Nicklaus and the Open have become inseparable — a partnership of the greatest golfer of the century and the oldest championship in golf.

SCORES FROM LOCH LOMOND

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 67: J Woosnam, 68: G Orr, D Howell, C Rocca (I), 69: L Westwood, P Broadhurst, 70: J Spence, S Clark (US), S Allen (Aus), R Darrinon (US), D Edmond (Swe), 71: S Garcia (Sp), A Calvo (Ger), E Romero (Arg), J van de Velde (F), A Oldcorn, R Drummond, M Moulard, J Parnevik (Swe), A Collat, M A Jimenez (Sp), 72: S Cape, J Robinson, D Robertson, C Montgomerie, J M O'Connell (Sp), I Garrido (Sp), D Carter, P McGinley, R Alenby (Aus), M

MacKenzie, M Lanner (Swe), 73: J Garbutt, G Turner (NZ), S Applaby (Aus), T Bjorn (Den), J Haeggen (Swe), B Davis, K Eriksson (Swe), A Hunter, M Florio (I), J McHenry, T Lehman (US), S Torrance, M Kucher (US), P Scales, 74: J Payne, P Harrington, C Dennis (US), S Siver (Ger), O Karlsson (Swe), D Gilford, A Grant, R Claydon, C Walls, D Borrego (Sp), F Sletted (Swe), T Lewis (F), R Hines, A Johnston (Zim), D Hooper (Sp), P Price, B May (US). Other scores: 75: A Lyle.

ROWING

British medal hopes lie with tried and tested

By MIKE ROSEWELL

BRITAIN'S quest for medals in the final round of the World Cup in Lucerne this weekend will be a difficult one. The previously successful combination of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, who for the past year have been in the world champion coxless four with Tim Foster and James Cracknell, will be aware that their wins at Henley over the Australian Olympic champions could be academic. The Australian Olympic champions are now their country's No 2 boat.

The British women's squad, who are coached by Mike Spracklen, have amassed most of the points that have put Britain in second place behind Germany in the 46-nation competition. Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop have become Britain's leading pair, winning in their coxless pair in the first two rounds in Munich and Hazewinkel.

In both these regattas, Blackie and Bishop also rowed in the British women's eight, fourth in Munich and third in Hazewinkel, but Spracklen leaves them to concentrate on their pair in Lucerne, replacing them in the eight with Libby Henshildwood and Rachel Woolf, coxless four winners in Hazewinkel. The last-minute withdrawal of Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay, silver medal-winners at the world championships in the double sculls in 1997, has been forced on Spracklen because of an injury to Lindsay. Batten will take a seat in the eight to replace Sue Walker.

Tracy Langlands and Jane Hall, in the women's lightweight doubles, are second in their boat class after a second place in Munich, and a third in Hazewinkel. Guin Batten, Britain's woman sculler, finished a good third in Munich

and a disappointing seventh in Hazewinkel, giving her fourth place in the World Cup points. She blamed her quarter-final defeat by Gina Douglas, of Australia, at Henley last week on the stream. She will have the chance to prove her point in Lucerne.

The eight, lying third in the rankings, is the highest placed men's boat going into the final round. The crew had a great row in Hazewinkel, finishing second to Romania, but were not happy with their narrow defeat by France at Henley last week, and presumably concerned by the margin of victory of the new-look German eight over France in the final. The men's pair of Steve Williams and Fred Scarlett withdrew from Hazewinkel when Scarlett was ill, but they finished a competitive fourth in Munich.

Greg Searle, Britain's sculler, with two eighth places, has yet to score points. The men's lightweight eight, a non-World Cup boat, has two wins behind it but there has been some reshuffling for Lucerne between the eight and the World Cup lightweight four. Peter Haining, makes his first single sculls appearance of the season at Lucerne.



Redgrave: great expectations

RUGBY LEAGUE

Walker agrees to delay resignation

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SIR RODNEY WALKER is to delay his resignation as chairman of the Rugby Football League (RFL) until he can help to achieve greater unity in the game and a £56 million extension of the Super League television deal to 2003 is finalised with The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, probably next week.

Walker was persuaded by the RFL board yesterday to remain in the position he has occupied since 1993. He still intends to leave at some point, to concentrate on his new chairmanship of the UK Sports Council, but the RFL said: "That will be when there is more stability."

Although much of the turmoil over the television contract has apparently ended, the First and Second Division Clubs' Association will not sanction the deal without a promise of promotion to the Super League for the first division winners. The leading clubs are insisting that newcomers show £500,000 in a bank account.

The RFL executive committee has cited Bernard Dwyer, the Bradford Bulls forward, for punching dur-

ing the defeat of Leeds Rhinos last Friday. He will appear at the disciplinary committee tonight with Jonathan Scales, the Bradford wing, who was sent off for a high tackle.

Leeds have sold only 250 tickets and Salford Reds, their opponents at Gateshead International Stadium tomorrow night, even fewer for the first of six "on the road" matches in the JJB Super League. With sales in the North East, a 5,000 attendance is expected. Gary Hetherington, the Rhinos' chief executive, said: "There has been a false assumption that these are exhibition games, when, actually, they are an additional round of Super League with points at stake."

After recent positive drug tests for steroid use involving three Newcastle Knights players in Australia, the 17 players used in a game against Canberra Raiders last month all recorded negative tests. Wayne Richards and Robbie O'Davis were banned for 22 weeks and Adam MacDougall faces a similar sentence if his B sample proves positive.

RUGBY UNION

Lam departure confirms new business agenda

By MARK SOUSTER

THE unexpected departure of Pat Lam from Newcastle to Northampton offers the clearest evidence yet that professional rugby is now purely about business. On the face of it, the decision made little sense with Lam having been one of the driving forces behind Newcastle's success last season, his performances having earned him the accolade of the Allied Dunbar Premiership player of the year.

Lam had 12 months of his contract to run and was keen to extend it, but Rob Andrew, the Newcastle director of rugby, had other priorities, chiefly the need for a tight-head prop, a problem solved by the arrival in October of Marius Hurter, 27, from South Africa.

With Va'iga Tulgamala on a lengthy and lucrative contract, Andrew would have to juggle his three overseas players, only two of whom could have played at any one time. Northampton seized the opportunity, Lam's agent brokered the move, and within a fortnight the deal was done.

At 29, Lam negotiated the security of a six-figure, three-year contract at Franklins Gardens, something Andrew was unable or unwilling to

offer, and Newcastle received a £100,000 transfer fee. All parties were satisfied, although whether the Newcastle supporters will be mollified at the loss of one of their crown jewels, is another matter.

Andrew was making no apologies yesterday, citing the need to look to the future and do what he felt was best for the club. "The offer came out of the blue and we decided it was in our best interests to accept it," Andrew said. The former England fly half also confirmed his intention to continue as a player.



Andrew: pragmatic decision

With Tim Stimpson, John Bentley, Alan Tait and now Lam gone, Andrew has opted for youthful promise in the recruits unveiled yesterday at Kingston Park.

Michael Wood, 21, a wing, is joining from West Hartlepool, together with Ian Peel, 22, a prop from Wharfedale, and full back Peter Massey, 23, from Moseley. Whether the club itself will be playing at Kingston Park is dependant upon the relevant planning permission being received for the erection of temporary stands. If it is not, then Gateshead, with its greater capacity, is on standby.

Elsewhere, the Welsh Rugby Union has denied reports that the Millennium Stadium might not be ready next summer, and that the Stade de France in Paris is being considered as an alternative venue for the World Cup final next year.

Vernon Pugh, a former WRU chairman, said: "Wales will play South Africa in the opening match in the stadium on June 26. Everyone is happy with the progress being made on a building programme that is not only on time, but in some cases ahead of schedule."

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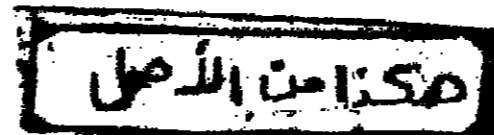


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MOTOR RACING

Fisichella happy to carry burden of Italian hopes

By Kevin Eason

SYLVESTER STALLONE could not find a better character than central casting to play the moodily handsome Italian racing driver for his new movie. Giancarlo Fisichella has the dark good looks and fiery temperament that attracted Stallone immediately as he wandered the paddock researching his film.

Stallone has seen the way that crowds of grand prix fans follow Fisichella as if he were a pop star and watched his passionate outburst after his collision with Eddie Irvine's Ferrari took him off the circuit in Spain. What neither the nor Formula One yet knows is whether Fisichella will be a world champion.

With just one full season behind him, Fisichella, 25, is already talked of as the first Italian to win the drivers' title since 1953. It is an astonishing gap in the history of a nation so passionate about motor racing and with the omnipresence of Ferrari since the modern world championships were inaugurated in 1950.

That leaves the young Benetton driver saddled with the burden of his nation's expectations, an unenviable role for someone still cutting his teeth in Formula One. But he is undaunted, proud even, and has no qualms that one day he will be champion.

He lounges back in his chair, his slim, tanned arms decorated only by the latest

expensive wristwatch. Though he has given up his home in Rome for Monaco and a base in Oxford, speaking English still demands intense concentration, and his eyes narrow at the questions. When the first answer arrives, though, it has the sort of archetypal Latin drawl that would set a million female hearts fluttering in cinemas the world over, while the body language is that of a young man enjoying every moment of his blossoming, multimillion-dollar career.

"I want to be world champion as soon as possible, and with Benetton," he said. "I feel confident and results are coming for the team. But I know the whole of Italy is behind me and I am very proud to represent my country."

His potential was long recognised but it was Eddie Jordan who recruited Fisichella last season. His impact was immense and immediate, and second place in Belgium confirmed that here was a winner in the making. Fisichella was contracted to partner Benetton, however, to partner another rookie, Alexander Wurz, for this year, in what could have been an explosive combination of reckless youth over experience.

Dave Richards, the Benetton team director, has been a father figure to the pair, allowing them their heads to race without disapproval of errors or misfortunes and offering them contracts for next year, regardless of how the rest of the season goes.

The result is that Fisichella, after a shaky start, is thriving, underlined by successive second places in Monaco and Canada. "Dave Richards is unbelievable," he said. "I have something special with this man and he has been fantastic for both Alex and me. What we have to do is to pay him back with our results for the faith he has shown in us."

"I had a great time with Jordan, which was a very professional team, but Benetton is a step forward. The team knows how to win, has won two championships and has the resources, so this is a team I know can help me to become world champion."

"It is always difficult to put together all the things that make a champion - technology, team, cars, experience - but I think I have that chance now in the next few years."

Richards has no doubt about the potential of his young Italian. "The team has reacted to his enthusiasm and his willingness to work hard on all the aspects of Formula One," he said. "Sometimes it would be easy for him to sit back and enjoy the adoration, but he knows that nobody is going to give him a world championship and he is going to have to put in the same application and effort as Michael Schumacher. The great thing is that he has talent and is gaining confidence. Add experience to that and it is quite a package."

Jenny MacArthur watches event riders triumph over the showjumpers

Pippa Funnell riding Tourmeline Rose, achieved a glorious win in the inaugural Horse and Hound Eventing Grand Prix at the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead yesterday, after a thrilling competition in which the former national horse trials champion was the only rider to complete the hybrid cross-country and showjumping course without knocking down a fence.

"She's a clever, careful horse," Funnell said of the nine-year-old mare, which is owned by Anne Burnett and sponsored by Pavilion plc. For Funnell, the win is a timely morale boost. At Badminton in May, she suffered the worst moment in her career when her leading horse, Bits and Pieces, broke down on the cross-country course three fences from home. "It completely knocked the stuffing out of me. He was such a fabulous horse," she said.

In the absorbing contest yesterday, which looks set to become a permanent fixture at Hickstead, Funnell and her fellow event riders routed the handful of showjumpers who bravely took them on. Polly Phillips and Coral Cove, winners of Bramham last month, finished second after a fearless round. Blyth Tait on his Olympic champion, Ready Teddy, was third, while Chris Bartle, the leader after the dressage and eligible for a £20,000 bonus had he won the event, dropped to fourth after an over-exuberant Word Perfect hit seven fences.

All four riders were unanimous in their support for the competition that was watched by a crowd of 18,000, a record for a week day at Hickstead. "It was great fun. I can't wait to do it again," Funnell said. Tait, who had three fences down, said: "The crowd liked it and so did the riders. We've had a practice now and we'll be even better next year."

Funnell enjoys perfect round



Pippa Funnell rides Tourmeline Rose to a well-deserved victory at Hickstead yesterday

the competition, said the fences would have "heavier" cups next year. For the five showjumpers in the event it was a day when, despite a valiant attempt, they failed to live up to their pre-match bravado. Rodrigo Pessoa, on Korsar, was eliminated at fence 15, a set of rails before the four crossing, and Work-Jan van de Schans, from Holland, on Impac Mon Ami, was eliminated at the water.

Michael Whitaker, who had a £2,000 bet with Schockemohle that he could beat the eventers, conceded defeat after five fences down on Graceland Cavalier. William Funnell, riding Supreme Roc, incurred 50 penalty seconds after hitting fences, but came out fighting. Now we know what we're up against it'll be a different story next year," he said.

It might have been a different story this year if William Funnell had not returned in time to give his wife some last-minute advice. "He told me it was impossible to try to gallop on such a twisty course and I was to 'keep it tight'" Pippa said. She obeyed to the letter, completing the course without touching a fence to finish the event on her dressage score.

SPORT IN BRIEF

British champion seriously injured

ATHLETICS: Steve Smith, the Olympic high jump bronze medal-winner, will be out of action for a year as a result of a serious training injury. The Liverpool Harrier, one of the favourites to take gold in the European championships and Commonwealth Games this year, injured his neck in the accident on Tuesday.

TENNIS: Chris Wilkinson, the British No. 3, who reached the third round at Wimbledon, went out in the first round of the Bristol Challenger Trophy yesterday. Wilkinson, the top seed, was beaten by another British player, Danny Sapsford, who won 7-5, 3-6, 7-5.

BASEBALL: Roberto Alomar and Ivan Rodriguez each claimed three hits to lead the American League to a 13-8 victory over the National League in the highest scoring All-Star Game in the history of the event. However, the thin air at Denver's Coors Field did not lead to the game's home runs that had been expected, with only three shot, making it out of the park. Alomar, who was named the game's most valuable player, followed in the footsteps of his brother, Sandy, who won the same award in the American League's 3-1 win last year.



High flyer Fisichella's Formula One career has taken off since Benetton invested in the Italian's potential

SWIMMING: COMMONWEALTH GAMES TRIALS LET YOUNG PRETENDERS CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS AND PROVE WORTH OF OVERSEAS TRAINING

Growing shoal of rivals puts pressure on pool's big fish

By Craig Lord



Palmer: returning to top form

THERE is no better confirmation that good things are happening in English swimming than the seriousness with which the likes of Paul Palmer and Karen Pickering are having to approach the Commonwealth Games trials in Sheffield over the next four days.

For while the Games, in Malaysia in September, allow three swimmers per nation per event, standards are rising at a pace that leaves no room for complacency. "The shoal that follows the big fish is getting ever closer and growing in number as the benefits and incentives of National Lottery funding take root: the team of '98 will be chosen from the most travelled English swimmers ever, having been exposed to more international competition and overseas training

camp in the past 18 months than ever before under the programme of Deryk Snelling, Britain's first performance director.

Nowhere will the progress and pressure be more evident than in the 200 metres freestyle today, when Palmer, the European champion, will be hunted by eight rivals split by two or three strokes. Six competitors are likely to be selected for the 4 x 200 metres freestyle.

Since becoming Britain's only individual medal-winner at the world championships in Australia in January, in the 400 metres freestyle, Palmer has not enjoyed the rudest health. Ian Turner, his coach, says that Palmer has shown improved form over the past week.

With such promising pretenders behind him, Palmer's uneasy task in Sheffield is to ensure qualification in spite of a ludicrously squeezed programme (six days into four).

As the only woman to stop Australia winning every women's title at the Games in 1994, Pickering hopes to defend her 100 metres freestyle crown, though that victory was not the expected one. She was then the world short-course champion over 200 metres freestyle, but finished third in Victoria.

"I never felt I did myself justice and I want to set the record straight and this time," Pickering said. In 1994 she took a relaxed approach to the trials, but now says: "Trying to make a team is harder this time.

Things have moved on, it's tighter. Everyone has to be on their toes."

If any can afford to fall shy of best and still qualify in Sheffield, they are James Hickman, world short-course champion over 200 metres butterfly, and Stephen Parry. They will revisit their duel in the butterfly races and on paper offer the best prospects for gold medals in Kuala Lumpur. Mark Foster, Adam Euckwood and Martin Harris will seek to defend titles in Malaysia.

In 1994, Australia won all but eight of the 32 titles in the pool. Since then, the gold and green squad's advance has been still fairer as Sydney 2000 approaches. That and the progress of South Africans and Canadians will make the gains hoped for at Sheffield over the next four days all the more pressing.



Hickman: renews butterfly duel

BASEBALL: ALL-STAR GAME: American League Stars 13 National League Stars 8 (in Denver)

EQUESTRIANISM: HICKSTEAD: Royal International Horse Show: The Horse and Hound Eventing Grand Prix...

SHOOTING: RUSLEY: NRA Imperial meeting: Whitehall Cup (open) results: 1. RAF 1, 32-25; 2. Regatta Army 1, 24-10; 3. All Comers 1, 21-10...

TENNIS: BAASSTAD: Swedish Open: Second round: D. Hrbaty (CZE) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2; M. Salin (SWE) 6-2, 6-2, 6-2...

POOL DIVIDENDS: ZETTERS: Table chance: 30ps: 12,25-50, 19,35-45, 18,20-30; 40ps: 11,00-10, 11,00-10, 11,00-10...

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WORLD CUP 98

Dutch depart as underachievers again, leaving world champions to tease and tantalise

Holland find harmony but not key to success

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN MARSEILLES

IT IS Holland's lot in the World Cup to be the object of admiration but never of envy. No one covers defeat by penalty shoot-out in a semi-final, as happened to Guus Hiddink's team against Brazil on Tuesday. Others would flinch, too, at the thought of acquiring the intimate acquaintance with wretchedness that the national side possesses.

They would surely have won the World Cup in 1974 and 1978 had they not been obliged, on each occasion, to face the host nation in the final. The advantage enjoyed by West Germany and Argentina proved too great. Those disappointments can be ascribed to misfortune, but Holland have also been victims of their own penchant for anticlimax.

It appeared that they would be the European champions in 1992 but lost a semi-final, to Denmark, in a penalty shoot-out on that occasion as well. In England, two years ago, ambitions were blighted by discord within the squad and it is claimed that some players were

Plain Jane. Of course, it only requires that the glasses be removed and the hair let down for her to be revealed as a ravishing beauty. The transformation is entertaining but silly, because the audience is perfectly aware of the heroine's good looks beneath the faint disguise.

Holland were rather like that in France. "We have a fine team," Hiddink had said, "but no world stars." One looked in vain for a Johan Cruyff, Marco van Basten or Ruud Gullit, but the coach still had extraordinary means at his disposal. Excellence jostled with excellence in a squad crowded with fine players. Edgar Davids and Dennis Bergkamp, for example, are among the elite of European football.

It is reasonable to assume that his previous work with problem children has led Hiddink to map the treacherous terrain of human relationships and, for once, the squad was guided away from the cliffs and the rocks below. This was the most harmonious Holland side to be seen for many years.

With the placidity, though, came a diffidence that prevented them from driving home an advantage. Admirers had misgivings from the early stages of the tournament. Holland took two draws and a win from their first three games, gathering the lowest points total of any of the group winners.

Opportunities were to pass them by on Tuesday as well. The falling lay not so much with the melodrama of penalties missed by Phillip Cocu and Ronald de Boer as in the chances spurned earlier. Whether Holland would have deserved victory is irrelevant. They could have snatched it, in any case, and left Brazil to whinge about its merits.

Practicalities worked against Holland. With six weeks spent recovering from injury before this World Cup, Bergkamp's stamina was drained. Patrick Kluivert, his partner in attack, scored an equaliser three minutes from the end of normal time, but he had earlier wasted a magnificent chance, meeting Pierre van Hooijdonk's cross with a reckless shot when there was time to finish with care.

There was a recent vindication for Kluivert when a Dutch court awarded him damages over false accusations of rape, but upheaval in his private life, as well as injuries, have filled too many years. Although he was precocious when winning the European Cup with Ajax in 1995, Kluivert will have to devote himself solely to football if he is to make up for lost time in the seasons ahead.

Not even maturity is sure to restore to him the prospects that his team enjoyed this summer. Holland took Brazil to the verge of exhaustion and defeat, yet could never quite seize their moment. The match in the Velodrome will not remain in the thoughts of Hiddink and the others because of its result. With woe, Holland will instead reflect on 1998 as the year they might have won the World Cup.



Hiddink, left, and Zagallo embrace after Brazil's victory

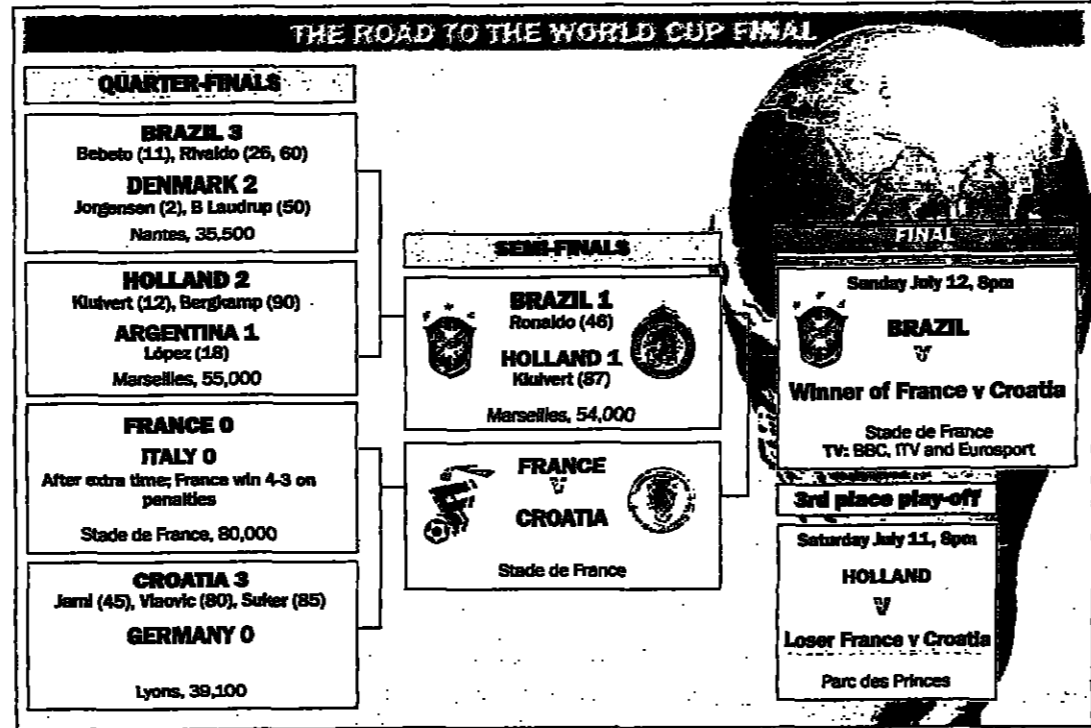
relieved to be knocked out by France — on the inevitable penalties — since it meant that they could disperse and escape one another's presence.

Holland have won a single significant trophy, the 1988 European championship. Given that there is a population of only 12 million to draw upon that ought to suffice, but it does not. The talent produced has been out of all proportion to the size of the country and so, inevitably, are the aspirations. Hiddink, this summer, was attempting to screen his players from the searing hope of the public.

The players might have shrivelled if exposed directly to such blistering emotions. Doubtless there were many sound and practical reasons for Hiddink's decision to adopt a conventional 4-4-2 system, but it also seemed that he was attempting to make his team dress down. There was a self-conscious downiness about the tactics, as if glamour had to be repudiated. One was reminded of old Hollywood movies in which a character is initially presented as a



Bent double Dutch: Kluivert's despair is all too apparent after Holland's defeat in a penalty shoot-out



Brazil finally stumble on croak of gold

Marseilles

Just before the World Cup started, I saw an old Chuck Jones cartoon about a singing frog. A worker on a demolition site uncovered a foundation stone in which a yellow and green frog had been buried for several decades. "What's this?" he queried, and he soon found out. The frog leapt out, put a cane under its arm and a top hat on its head, and struck up a cheerful vaudeville number, strutting sideways with startling panache.

Spotting the chance to become rich, the demolition worker took his discovery directly to an agent, but when he got it there, it slumped down, froglike, and croaked: "Nidip." Thus was a pattern established. The frog performed only in private — in fact, in private he sang and tap-danced non-stop — and was ultimately buried by his poor, broken-down discoverer under another foundation stone, to be discovered again in 2050.

Whither this painful analogy, you ask. Well, nobody could accuse Brazil of croaking their way through this World Cup, but I would venture to say there hasn't been such a noticeable excess, either, of "California Here I Come". Basically, you know they've got it in them, but for some reason it's taken a lot of persuasion to dig it out. At the extraordinary, tortuous semi-final between Brazil and Holland on Tuesday night, an ultimately top-level performance had to be coaxed and bullied from them by a Holland team that just wouldn't give up. You'd get half a verse of "San Francisco, Open Your Golden Gate" and then a bewildering recourse to "nidip". A few bars more, as the pressure grew, of "Mammy, How I Love Ya, How I Love Ya", then a bit of aimless hopping. Only really in the last segment of extra time, was there a full-blooded stab at "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy, Yankee Doodle Do or Die".

Expectations of this match were high, to say the least. It was the sort of fixture to make you rub your hands in anticipation, and say "Corks, I can't wait". Holland were to be encouraged by a large contingent of fans done up like humorous human carrots and singing their old anthem. "Hup, Holland, Hup!" while Brazil were also represented in enormous, colourful numbers. A large full moon hung in a soft, velvety sky above the Stade Velodrome; the kick-off triggered a thrilling chain reaction of camera flashes from the stands and the game was afoot, as Sherlock Holmes used to say when excited. (Or the game is footie, as we say today.)

But then it all went a bit flat for 45 minutes, the way it sometimes does. Holland demonstrated how they could keep the ball tucked up their collective jumper, while Brazil demonstrated elegant back-passes to Taffarel. It was edgy stuff, the sort of football that makes you scratch your ears. On the Holland

side, Kluivert had chances. Cocu was wild. Bergkamp was curiously invisible. And Edgar Davids was a human bulldozer. I assume that when Davids runs straight at you, the wisest action is just to dig your own grave and jump inside it. But it didn't add up to much, this goalless half, that's the point, and the rare enthusiasm of the Mexican wave reflected it.

How to get Brazil to perform? To get the ball and run like hell, with the thankful adoration of football fans everywhere. The way Ronaldo, Leonardo or Roberto Carlos can turn on a heel and tear off goalwards always reminds me of urchins in shorts streaking out of sweet shops in Ealing films. "Run, Chalky, run!" The opposition are left shaking walking sticks after them and saying things like "Grrr, you whippersnappers". And sure enough, that's exactly how the first goal looked on Tuesday — less than one minute into the second half, a lightning raid between Rivaldo and



Ronaldo, after which you half expected to see the delighted chums emptying their pockets of liquorice bootlaces and penny chews and divvying up the spoils.

Thanks to that goal, the second half was a warmed-up, speeded-up version of the first, with more chances for both sides, but otherwise similar characteristics. Suffice to say, Holland remained a goal down for the next 41 minutes, although their performance intensified, for good or bad. Kluivert kept missing. Zenden got desperate. Bergkamp became a mere wraith in boots. Davids made a pattern with his caterpillar tracks.

"Hup, Holland, Hup!" I said, admittedly without much hope. Frank de Boer and the other defenders were virtually superhuman in their containment of Brazil. But just when you thought Holland couldn't possibly equalise, they did. A fabulous projectile header from Kluivert — for once aimed down instead of up — bounced beautifully on the goaline and hopped up into the net. Which was what finally goaded Brazil to stop blinking and chattering and really show us what they could do.

All matches that end in penalty shoot-outs somehow let themselves down. We remember the sense of horror at the Russian roulette instead of our admiration for the rest of the game. Despite the dreadful penalty period on Tuesday night (and in particular Ronald de Boer's heart-stopping "where am I" amnesia attack in his run-up) this was a match of brilliant, intensifying play, high skill and high risk. In extra time, Holland finally made Brazil grab the cane and the top hat and give us a bit of that old soft shoe. This is no comfort to Holland, I would wager. But for those of us gagging for Sunday's final, it's very good news indeed.

LYNNE TRUSS

Cool Gullit warms to his task as confidence returns

When Ruud Gullit was dismissed from Chelsea in February, he cut a forlorn figure. The cool, chatty persona had evaporated and he retreated into an inner sanctum of friends to rebuild his shattered confidence and bruised ego.

Gullit is back, not in high-risk management, but as a pundit on ITV after transferring his allegiance from the BBC. He is an integral and authoritative voice in the independent channel's World Cup coverage and after a shaky start, perched high on gantries at various grounds in southern

France, the verve and style has returned. And he is smiling again. ITV had considered David Ginola, the Tottenham Hotspur striker and BBC panellist, for a touch of continental flavour but opted for dreadlocks ahead of flowing locks. Gullit's friendship with Brian Barwick, the ITV controller of sport and former BBC head of sport, helped, too. A two-year deal was signed and the multilingual Dutchman gradually

eased his way back into the public consciousness. "We heard that Ruud was not happy with the way the BBC was presenting its World Cup," Jeff Farmer, the ITV head of football production, said. "He wanted to spend more time at games rather than sit in a studio in Paris. He was also attracted by the package we offered, which includes the Champions' League. It is very much his domain and he also

fancied crossing tactical swords with the likes of Bobby Robson, Alex Ferguson and Terry Venables." Ironically, in view of his stated preference, Gullit's displays on the road have not been his smoothest, though there have been mitigating circumstances. Balancing on a platform, with a hand-held microphone halfway up his left nostril, fans haying in the background and Bob Wilson shouting ques-

tions at him, is hardly conducive to producing sparkling or thought-provoking comment. In the calm of the studio, casual in dark T-shirt and jacket, it is the Gullit of old. "There was an angel on the crossbar," he said after Fredrag Mijatovic's penalty had struck woodwork in Yugoslavia's 2-1 defeat against Holland. He laughed, his hair rattling behind him, and again oozed the suave superiority that had been temporarily destroyed when Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, ended his tenure at Stamford Bridge.

How he enjoyed the demise of Germany, too, recalling a flight from Marseilles when the pilot announced that the Germans were losing 1-0 to Croatia. "The whole plane erupted with cheering," he said, unable to conceal his delight.

Gullit's frankness compares

and competes favourably with the technical expertise of Robson, tactical nous of Ferguson and barrow-boy banter of Venables. And though hardly Hansen-esque in manner, he is not afraid to interrupt sterile discussion with contrasting opinion.

Even after witnessing the painful defeat of Holland, he still managed to paint the picture. "It is terrible, I feel terrible," he said. "It is like an emptiness." Not unrelated, perhaps, to how he felt five months ago.

RUSSELL KEMPSON

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NatWest Trophy: Warwickshire spirits are lifted and Wells-Habib alliance ousts Glamorgan

Kent suffer backlash as Lara leads from front

By PAT GIBSON

EDGBASTON (Kent won toss): Warwickshire beat Kent by 167 runs

BRIAN LARA, who seems to have spent more time this summer clocking up the air miles on his way home to Trinidad and back than he has scoring runs for Warwickshire, got his priorities right yesterday with a superb century that could yet transform his county's season.

The first time he went home in May, he was fined £2,000 for returning too late to play in an Axa League game at Taunton. He was off again last weekend, but back in good time for this second-round tie and rewarded with the £375 man-of-the-match award.

It was the least he deserved for an innings of the highest class on a difficult pitch, which put the smile back on the faces of everyone at Edgbaston, not least Lara himself. "We've been having a tough time in the Championship," he said. "But today it was very enjoyable."

"It's all part of the learning process, I suppose, but we are still in contention for the Axa League as well as the NatWest, so we could have a couple of trophies in the cupboard."

Kent, now beaten five times

in seven years at Edgbaston in this competition, must have fancied their chances when Ward, captaining the side in the absence of the injured Marsh, put Warwickshire in and soon saw them reduced to 28 for two. Headley knocked out Smith's middle stump with a ball that kept low, and then had Knight caught at extra cover with one that bounced.

In the circumstances, Lara could not have faced a sterner test of his character and commitment. He has been so out of form in the championship that 13 innings have brought him only 296 runs at an average of 22 and for a long time yesterday he struggled with his timing.

He was never less than vigilant, however, and once two loose overs from Hooper, his West Indies colleague, that cost 25 runs, had got him under way, he went from strength to strength. A scorching off drive off Phillips was the shot of the morning, and he took three successive boundaries off McCague as he accelerated towards his highest score of the season.

When he was eventually caught at backward square leg off a Fleming full toss, he had made 133 off 158 balls, including a six, driven effortlessly



Lara, the Warwickshire captain, steps down the pitch to play a rare defensive stroke during his century yesterday

over long on off Phillips, and 16 fours. He found the perfect partner in David Hemp, a fellow left-hander, who played with the utmost common sense in a partnership of 169 in 33 overs, a third-wicket record for Warwickshire in the competition. It beat the 157 put on by M J K Smith and Rohan Kanhai against Lincolnshire in 1971, although the Lincolnshire attack of the time prob-

ably would have made better use of the conditions yesterday.

Hemp was just beginning to play handsome shots of his own when he was caught behind off Ealham for 59, but more runs came from Penney, whose unbeaten 45 off 50 balls lifted Warwickshire to 303 for six.

Kent overhauled a Warwickshire score of 304 for eight

in the Benson and Hedges quarter-finals last year, but such a target was always likely to be beyond them this time unless Hooper could emulate his Test match captain. He was soon facing the challenge. Whereas the danger ball at the start of Warwickshire's innings was the one that kept low, Welch found unexpected bounce to have Fulton and Ward caught

in the slips, then Brown produced a beauty to bowl Key through the gate. As long as Hooper and Wells were putting on 55 for the fourth wicket, Kent had some sort of chance. Then Welch changed ends to have Hooper leg-before and Wells caught at third man. Kent capitulated to 136 all out and their heaviest defeat in the history of the competition.

Leicestershire almost caught out by Maynard

By JOHN THICKNESSE

CARDIFF (Glamorgan won toss): Leicestershire beat Glamorgan by five wickets

VINCE WELLS and Ahab Habib, adding 132 for the fifth wicket, carried Leicestershire to what at first sight looks a straightforward victory. Leicestershire, who play in the Benson and Hedges Cup final on Saturday, had 4-4 overs in hand when they passed Glamorgan's 188 all out.

On a grudgingly slow pitch, however, the result could easily have gone the other way when Steve Watkin, inspired by a stunning catch by Matthew Maynard, his captain, took three wickets in eight balls as Leicestershire dived from 28 for no wicket to 42 for four between the thirteenth and the nineteenth overs.

Despite making a characteristically handsome 66, Maynard's untimely dismissal to a reckless stroke in the 52nd over, ended Glamorgan's hopes of reaching 220, which is what they considered a likely winning score in the conditions. He almost made up for it, however, when he leapt at deep gully to catch Darren Maddy left-handed off a well struck cut that was otherwise a certain four. Ben Smith was caught at the wicket off Watkin's next ball and Phil Simmons was leg-before in his next over.

Glamorgan came within a fraction of a second of breaking the Wells-Habib stand before it took root when, at 55, a quick leg-side stumping by

Shaw was referred to the third umpire, John Steele. The replay showed that Habib's back foot returned to earth just in time to save him.

Alan Mullally twice came within a whisker of dismissing Maynard in the over he came in, passing his outside edge with successive balls. This was a dangerous spell by the former England seam bowler, comprising a number of late in-swingers, one of which had Shaw leg-before, as a variant to his customary stant across the batsman.

Apart from a sharp, low chance to deep gully when he was 34, however, Maynard was never again troubled after that initial over, although the lack of pace and bounce in the pitch made runs hard to score at any rate. Dale and Maynard added 55 for the third wicket in 16 overs.

Glamorgan still had prospects of the score they had in mind when, at 159, Maynard was caught at deep mid-wicket off Dominic Williamson. It was a high risk stroke, but the innings was stagnating. Maynard and Croft had taken 13 overs to add 36.

When Glamorgan's last four wickets fell for 31, Williamson completing an analysis of five for 37, it was possible to identify Maynard's dismissal as the match's turning point. His catch to dismiss Maddy revived Glamorgan's flagging chances but when Wells and Habib got set, Glamorgan had too small a target to defend.

Fairbrother makes light of challenge

By RICHARD HOBSON

OLD TRAFFORD (Yorkshire won toss): Lancashire beat Yorkshire by three wickets

ON A pitch that favoured batsmen for much of the third Test match, it became apparent early yesterday that a single innings of substance would dictate the outcome of this second-round contest. That Neil Fairbrother should be the man who held his nerve to play that innings was little surprise.

As with England on Monday, however, the Old Trafford crowd, a disappointing 4,000, suffered several anxious moments before the home element witnessed the result they wanted in thin drizzle and fading light. Darren Gough, having helped to deny South Africa two days earlier, threatened to turn a compulsive if low-scoring match the way of Yorkshire with figures of four for 30 from three brisk spells.

As he had recorded the top score of 42 when Yorkshire set a target of 179, Gough would have taken the man-of-the-match award had Lancashire crumbled. Instead, the decisive moment arrived when Fairbrother, on 62, edged Silverwood, only for Blakey

to drop the chance low to his left. Lancashire were still 31 runs short, but Fairbrother headed the lesson. He finished on 76 not out from 165 balls and steered his side into the last eight with three overs to spare.

Lloyd, contributing 40 towards a fourth-wicket stand of 100, had helped to steady the innings after Gough and Silverwood reduced Lancashire to 32 for three in the eighth over. Crawley soon followed, but Byas became over-cautious in his field settings, as though he felt he could win by containment rather than by taking ten wickets.

Gough, who should have returned sooner after tea, accounted for Lloyd and Watkinson in the 35th over, and when Hamilton took a fine catch to dismiss Wasim, three wickets had fallen in eight balls. Yet with Hegg clearly out of touch, Byas removed Gough from the attack when he had two overs remaining. Lancashire needed just ten more when he rejoined the attack and although he bowled Hegg, the home side were now close enough to hold on.

The Yorkshire captain soon had cause to regret his decision to bat. Vaughan chopped a wide ball from Wasim onto his stumps and Lehmann was run out at the bowler's end, attempting a sharp single to Lloyd at extra cover. Wasim yoked Byas while Austin, consistently hitting the ideal length, swung one into Parker during a seven-over spell that cost just three runs. Yates enjoyed considerable assistance for his off spin from the Warwick Road End, but it was Watkinson who accounted for Blakey with a quicker ball and Wasim returned to have McGrath leg-before for a patient 25 to leave Yorkshire 82 for six.

Hamilton responded to promotion to No 7 by helping to extricate them from a parlous state and Gough, necessarily inhibited, offered sensible assistance during a partnership of 57 for the seventh wicket. The total of 178 for nine allowed far more of a chance than Byas must have feared an hour or so earlier.

Middlesex tail wags to deny Durham

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

SOUTHGATE (Middlesex won toss): Middlesex beat Durham by two wickets

THERE have been many more improbable results in the 60-over competition but it was still an extraordinary conclusion to a game that Durham seemed to have in the bag. At 129 for seven in the 44th over Middlesex needed another 112 to win, and they got them with eight balls to spare.

Their heroes were Richard Johnson, who added 45 bracing, unbeaten runs from 27 balls to his two wickets, and Keith Dutch, whose undefeated 49 compensated for the 67 runs he had conceded earlier. Together they made 66 in seven overs, assisted in no small measure by bowlers who lost their nerve.

Johnson took the man-of-the-match award on a day when only one man, Speak, passed fifty. That said something about the slow pace of the pitch and it was with some desperation that the Middlesex late order batsmen went about their business, thrashing the ball to all parts as though they could perish at any time. The 18 runs that Alastair Fraser collected from 20 balls were not insignificant.

It was with three overs left that Johnson took successive boundaries off Wood to bring the rate below a run a ball. Johnson is no fool with the bat but there was nothing refined about the decisive boundary in the following over, when a booming drive produced an inside edge that prompted the batsmen to skip off to their cheering team-mates, while the Durham fielders sank to their haunches. This was a game they had to win, just to prove that they can win matches like this, and they contrived to throw it away.

Saggers, 26, and playing in his first NatWest Trophy match, gave them every chance. He bowled Gattling in his second over, and bettered that three overs later when Betts, retreating from mid-off with the ball swirling over his head, held a wonderful catch to dismiss Rampakash.

When, next ball, Shah was run out at the non-striker's end Middlesex were 54 for three, and staring into the abyss. They have not reached a one-day final this decade and the silver-bearded Gattling will never get another opportunity.

Langer, who was culpable in Shah's dismissal, occupied the crease for 37 overs before he was out after tea, caught behind, and the departure of Brown and Pooley could lead only one way, or so everybody thought. But the younger Fraser struck his chin out and Dutch, who survived his loss, maintained his example.

Earlier the elder Fraser, who took the first wicket, also excelled in the field when he contributed to the second. Morris hooked Johnson and Fraser came galumphing in from long leg to reach and hold the ball as he stretched in front of him.

Durham lunched with three wickets down, after Boon drove Weekes to long-on, and Speak was established by then. By the time he was fifth out at 188 he had faced 145 balls and, to give some impression of the pitch's character, had hit only two of them to the boundary.



Speak: careful half-century



Fairbrother: punished error

Advertisement for The Times newspaper. It features a large graphic of a newspaper page with the text 'FRIDAY 30p' and 'The Times. Now only 30p weekdays.' Below this, it says 'If you're a teacher, a student or a parent, Education is for you. Plus Music brings you rock, pop, classical and opera reviews.' At the bottom, it includes the website 'http://www.the-times.co.uk' and the slogan 'CHANGING TIMES'.

Advertisement for NatWest bank. It features a graphic of crossed cricket bats and a cricket ball. The text reads 'Victory for House of Lancaster.' Below this, it says 'The War of the Roses was fought over who should be king of England. Yorkshire and Lancashire clashed at Old Trafford. Both sides threw away their chances, but in the end it was the rise of Lancaster that left smelling of victory.' At the bottom, it features the NatWest logo and the slogan 'More than just a bank.' At the very bottom, there is a small box with Arabic text 'مركز من الأمل'.

NatWest Trophy: Essex's crown slips at Southampton while outsiders fail to repeat heroics

Stalwart Connor reaps benefit of early rising

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

SOUTHAMPTON (Hampshire won toss): Hampshire beat Essex by three wickets

NOT many teams have successfully recovered from losing their three most accomplished batsmen in the first over of a match and the task eventually proved beyond Essex here yesterday. They did cause Hampshire some high anxiety, however, before relinquishing their hold on the NatWest Trophy and their prospects of reaching a third successive Lord's final.

Essex were now endangering the lowest total made by a first-class side in the 60-over competition, presently 41 by Middlesex against Essex in 1972. Such indignity was comfortably avoided, however, when Danny Law made a responsible 47 from 76 balls.

Hampshire will have been nervously aware that they lost three wickets without a run on the board in their first-round game against Dorset, but Lane and Stephenson gave them such a confident base here that the outcome soon looked beyond question.



Stephenson, of Hampshire, launches a successful leg-before appeal against Ilt

Scotland's dream is undone by Dean Somerset denied as Evans edges in

By John Stern

By Jack Bailey

EDINBURGH (Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire beat Scotland by seven wickets

TRENT BRIDGE (Somerset won toss): Nottinghamshire beat Somerset by one wicket

SCOTTISH cricket's brief time in the sun came to a disappointing and chilly end yesterday as Derbyshire, who were also run close by Scotland in the Benson and Hedges Cup, moved professionally, if unspectacularly, into the NatWest quarter-finals.

Upside in county cricket's two knockout competitions are rare occurrences, but the underdog never seems to have enough bite to strike twice in a row. The odds against a repeat of Scotland's first-round defeat of Worcestershire were long before the match but, by the time Scotland were 19 for six, the book had been closed for good.

The absence of Phillip DeFreitas was barely noticed once Kevin Dean, the left-arm bowler who was named man of the match, caused fatal wounds in Scotland's top order. The ball swung and seemed consistently, and the bounce was not always true, which made life extremely difficult.

AMID scenes of high excitement, the Trent Bridge crowd cheered their team to victory with the last pair together and three balls remaining. Just for a moment, it looked as though Somerset, for whom Andrew Caddick took two wickets with the last two balls of the penultimate over, might triumph but old stager Kevin Evans edged Nottinghamshire home, literally, with two runs to third man.

For much of the match Somerset were in control. Despite Jason Gallian's half-century, their formidable attack, with Mushtaq outstanding, fared well until Chris Tolley established himself as Tolley's highest score in this competition, before yesterday, was 18. Now, he became the centrepiece of the Nottinghamshire effort. He faced 126 balls for his 77, featured in a partnership of 68 from 16 overs with Strang and, most crucially, one of 63 in eight overs with Franks. He deservedly won the man-of-the-match award. With his economical bowling, he had played a leading part in securing Nottinghamshire's first one-day win of the season at home over first-class opposition.

Somerset's total of 255 for nine was always likely to take some getting. The pitch was never fast enough for stroke-play to be devised of risk and there was just enough in it to encourage spin and seam. The visitors had only made a circumspect 93 for three at the halfway stage of their innings. Holloway and Burns had given their team a useful start when Franks, who generated more life than any other bowler in the game, brought one back into Holloway's midriff and, next ball, made him edge to first slip where Gallian took an excellent catch. Crucially for Somerset, Harden lent stability while Bowler pushed the scoring along. Harden's 95-ball innings laid a solid foundation upon which Parsons was able to accelerate the scoring with 42 from 35 balls.

Stewart revels in second recovery act of the week

By Ivo Tennant

BRISTOL (Surrey won toss): Surrey beat Gloucestershire by 52 runs

SURREY'S innings made for curious reading yesterday. Alec Stewart, his countenance no longer as careworn as it was at Old Trafford, struck 89, the highest score of this NatWest second-round tie, and Adam Holloake gained the man-of-the-match award for an even more impressive innings of 88. Nobody else reached double figures, but Surrey still had quite sufficient runs to see off opponents whose batting is not their strongest suit.

Whereas Surrey lost their first four wickets for 20, Gloucestershire collapsed to 45 for five and simply did not have the lower order to effect a recovery. It is a wonder, indeed, that they have risen to fifth place in the county championship table, having amassed just nine bonus batting points. Surrey had too much in reserve not to overcome such fragility, even though Russell was his normal adhesive self at the crease.

There was no Thorpe in Surrey's side or, for that matter, Butcher, who will not be able to show he is fit enough to play for England before the Guildford festival next week. Gloucestershire should have capitalised on bowling them out for 215. They really ought to have won, for

there was not much wrong with this pitch. Yet other than Alleyne, no batsman got going. Bicknell had Hancock taken at the wicket and Wright at second slip, where Ben Holloake's agility was something to behold. His first over was impressive, too, for he accounted for Windows and Dawson, neither of whom moved their feet. Alleyne survived until Bicknell returned to have him leg-before on the front foot. After that, Gloucestershire came up with only Russell's customary defiance and some amusing slogging by Walsh.

Gloucestershire effectively lost the match, though, when the partnership between Stewart and Adam Holloake flowered after such a dismal start to the Surrey innings. Smith gained some swing, as he is wont to do when given a new ball at 10.30am and had Ratcliffe, Shahid and Brown out with it. He had eight overs in his first spell, but Walsh was taken off all too soon.

The manner in which Alleyne deployed his most significant bowler smacked of captaincy by format. Walsh was given six overs at the start, a spell after lunch and another at the close of Surrey's innings. Better, surely, for him to have had a

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes NatWest Trophy Second round, Glamorgan v Leicestershire, and Lancashire v Yorkshire.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes Somerset v Gloucestershire, Lancashire v Yorkshire, and Warwickshire v Kent.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes Somerset v Gloucestershire, Lancashire v Yorkshire, and Warwickshire v Kent.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes Scotland v Derbyshire, Derbyshire v Somerset, and Somerset v Gloucestershire.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE. Includes text by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent, and a small bridge hand diagram.

Advertisement for KEENE on CHESS. Includes text by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, and a chessboard diagram.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Score. Includes Gloucestershire v Surrey, Surrey v Warwickshire, and Gloucestershire v Warwickshire.

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Advertisement for WORD-WATCHING. Includes text by Philip Howard and a list of words.

Advertisement for WINNING MOVE. Includes text by Raymond Keene and a chessboard diagram.

Electric car a project too far for bright sparks

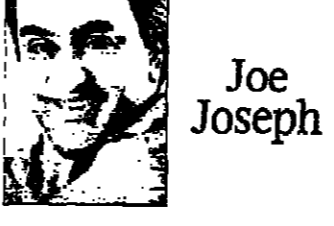
Lord knows the automobile could do with some re-designing. So full marks to Richard Seymour and Dick Powell for attempting to address the problem in *Designs on Your Car* (Channel 4) last night, even though they lacked enough time to gather up the most basic resources you need to launch a new car — months to test new materials, unlimited funds to build prototypes, and several naked women to drape on the bonnet at the Geneva Motor Show. But in the short space of time that they were given, they showed how timid the car industry has been in coming up with any novel ideas beyond the "people car", a vehicle which can comfortably fit in seven passengers, but only provided that they are willing to sit with their entire weekly shop on their laps.

Within minutes of visiting a supermarket car park to see how most people use their cars, Seymour and Powell had worked out that a baby seat which swung out from the dashboard would spare parents painful contortions, and that four floors that could slide in and out would make it easier to load and unload the shopping.

While they are at it, perhaps they could persuade car manufacturers to incorporate a few other features that would make drivers' lives easier, such as dashboard-mounted dart guns to puncture the tyres of people who park on double yellow lines in narrow roads and vaporisers to dematerialise cars that drive at 45mph in the middle lane of a motorway. As for Lamborghinis, they should come equipped with an extra set of wing mirrors directed at the driver, so he can see how sad he looks sitting in a traffic jam in Action pretending not to notice that 80 elephants are breaking wind under his bonnet.

While they had reasonable success in redesigning the bra in the

REVIEW



Maybe designing a new car was a project too far for a series of this size. But it once again highlighted how manufacturers can confuse decoration with design (the jangle of ugly modern logos is decoration, whereas something enduring such as the Lucky Strike packet or the BP logo is good design, and needn't cost any more than bad design), and how good design makes objects a joy to use as well

as to look at, because the two are intertwined. Just like this series, in fact — a straightforward idea, neatly executed, that made its point while also being a joy to watch. Why hadn't anyone done it before?

The difference between design and decoration is similar to the difference between style and fashion. Looking Good (BBC2) returned last night, still tracing a line between the two. We have all had fun listening to the twaddle uttered by football commentators over the past couple of weeks (Kevin Keegan: "Chile have three options, they can win or they can lose"), but as fashion gurus much better? One fashion writer assured us that "buying a white shirt is a great investment. I think it'll definitely be around for autumn as well, so it's not just for summer, to throw away; something to keep for a long time." So suddenly half the men in the City are the height of

fashion. But would a woman actually consider throwing out her white shirt in the autumn? Many grown men still own underwear they were wearing as teenagers.

Then an image consultant called Morag Young gave a young computer trainer some pointers on summer dressing which included the tip that "a jacket is your armour" and "bare legs are an absolute no-no". But she also said "armpits are unprofessional". Even Kevin Keegan wouldn't say something as weird as that. It all seemed like kind of advice a woman might be grateful for, but it didn't seem different from the sort of fashion tips you get in women's magazines, newspaper fashion pages, and several other TV clothes programmes: how much dressing advice do women actually need before they'll step out of the house?

Looking Good, decided she might as well undergo a makeover while she was at it, and had her long hair chopped short on camera. Luckily Edwina Currie refrained from such participatory journalism when she appeared on *Leviathan* (BBC2) last night to share her thoughts on the new anti-impotence drug, Viagra. Had Currie come to investigate rumours swirling around Nigeria that General Sani Abacha, the country's ruthless military dictator who recently died of a heart attack, was the victim of a Viagra-fueled bout of over-exercising? Not exactly. She had come to ask: "Are we to prepare ourselves for 60-year-old Lotharios walking the streets of London, or sex clubs for third-age? And will this reawakening of 10 per cent of British males be a blessing or a curse for women like me?" I don't know, Edwina, but somehow I feel sure you'll be telling us.

6.00am Business Breakfast (17422)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (94996)
8.00 All Over the Shop (1) (3263170)
9.20 Kilroy (1) (3562848)
10.00 Meet the Challenge How to assemble 180-pack furniture (5689149)
10.25 Style Challenge Classics Male shoppers, female shoppers and Gothic-style women (1311408)
10.55 Short Change (1747373)
11.00 News (1) regional news and weather (5287266)
11.05 Around the World in 80 Days Delays, misunderstandings and a suspect bomb impede Paul's journey (1) (7842482)
11.55 News (1) (6335118)
12.00 Every Second Counts (1) (13460)
12.30pm Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (46373)
1.00 One O'Clock News (1) and weather (17070)
1.30 Regional News (1) (1516473)
1.40 Neighbours Phil and Ruth clash over plans for the wedding (1) (4950847)
2.05 International Golf Live action from round two of the Loch Lomond World Invitational. Continues on BBC2 (9234488)
3.30 Noddy (1723118) 3.40 Playdays (8665877) 4.00 Poovey (2673373) 4.10 The Littlest Pet Shop (2671557) 4.20 Mr Wym (6167471) 4.35 Goosebumps (1) (3282827)
5.00 Newsround News update for younger viewers (1) (3276808)
5.10 Record Breakers Hang-glider Judy Leden takes off from a balloon at 18,000ft (1) (6871847)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (440267)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (199)
6.30 Regional News (1) (151)
7.00 Watchdog: The Big Dinner Johnathan Maltland explores the sources of culinary brand names, investigates the food bargains to be found in French supermarkets and hunts out hidden additives (1) (781644)
7.25 EastEnders Extended edition. Grant takes decisive action in a bid to regain control of his future (1) (3605731)
8.30 The Hello Girls New girl Belinda leads Sylvia astray on a drinking spree in the New South Wales squaddies (1) (3096)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (1) and weather (3118)
9.30 Murder in the First (1995) Drama based on real events in the 1930s, with Christian Slater, Kevin Bacon, Gary Oldman and Brad Douff. A petty criminal's appalling treatment and living conditions in Alcatraz drive him to murder another inmate.
Directed by Mark Robison (73482)
11.30 Mobsters (1981) Starring Christian Slater and Patrick Dempsey. Violent drama chasing the early years of gangsters Bugsy Siegel and Lucky Luciano, as they and their friends make a daring bid to overthrow the dons of 1920s New York. Directed by Michael Karbelnikoff (893557)
1.05em Weather (2698710)
1.10 BBC News 24

BBC2
6.10 am Breathes of Life (1744066) 6.35 Marmite in Water (563900)
7.00 Teletubbies (1) (1090996) 7.25 Dink, the Little Dinosaur (1002731) 7.50 Get Your Own Back (1) (4739151)
8.15 Willy Fog (1) (1) (266286) 8.35 William's Wish Wellingtons (1) (9870267) 8.45 The Record (1237753) 9.10 Hawkeye (1) (3550606) 9.50 Cartoon (8571809)
10.00 Teletubbies (73915) 10.30 Advance of the Armadillo (1) (1) (97422)
11.00 International Golf Coverage of the second round of the Loch Lomond World Invitational (64847)
12.30pm Working Lunch The latest business news from the City (47915)
1.00 Campbell's Kingdom (1957) starring Dirk Bogarde as a dying man who claims his inheritance — an oil-rich valley in Canada. With Stanley Baker, Ralph Thomas directs (9384844)
2.40 News (1) (817025) 2.45 Westminster with Diana Madill (1) (4250996) 3.25 News (1) (1716373)
3.30 International Golf More second-round golf from the Loch Lomond World Invitational (539644)
6.00 Star Trek: Voyager The holographic doctor saves the crew (1) (7) (894828)
6.45 Star Trek: Voyager The crew seek the source of a mysterious illness (1) (100286)
7.30 East Lisa Azz examines the plight of childless Asian couples who face a choice between rejection by their communities or a desperate search for fertility clinics which can supply Asian donor eggs (1) (977)

CARLTON
6.00am GMTV (1540335)
9.25 This Morning (1) (1357426)
9.30 Vanessa (1) (1796544)
10.10 This Morning (1) (3464446)
12.20pm Your Show (4317731)
12.25 Regional News (4316002)
1.30 News (1) and weather (34441)
1.00 London Today (1) (82151)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (5698928)
2.15 Home and Away The quest for Lela's allegations continues (1) (762712)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (1) (71083)
3.15 News (1) (1714915)
3.30 Regional News and weather (1711828)
3.25 Tots TV (1) (1794151) 3.35 The Fiddlers (1717557) 3.45 Cartoon Time (1) (3582657) 3.55 Zzzap! (1) (8688828) 4.15 Brand Spanking New Doug (1) (9466252) 4.40 Retrace (1) (1) (4125248)
5.10 Home and Away (1) (1) (5818441)
5.40 News (1) and weather (432373)
6.00 London Tonight (1) and weather (267)
6.30 Videotext with Margherita Taylor (847)
7.00 Emmerdale Kim is feeling threatened; Roy and Kelly have their hopes set on the big time (1) (7539)
7.30 We Can Work It Out Judy Finnigan investigates paintwork problems on new vehicles (731)
8.00 The Bill: The Whip Hand Datta's decision to change career is influenced by a family with a secret (1) (9557)

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (2028338) 1.00 Shortland Street (82151) 1.30 Home and Away (33712) 2.25 Not Fade Away (557231) 3.20 The Chart Show (1292316) 4.15 Vanessa (4336774) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (9158438) 5.00 FreeScreen (88294)

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 1.00pm-1.30 A Country Practice (82151) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (82151) 5.40 Home and Away (33712) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (267) 6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (847) 7.30-8.00 Meridian News and Weather (198354) 10.45 FILM: Flatliners (23183354) 10.45 Trainspotters (1144671) 2.25 Not Fade Away (557231) 3.20 The Chart Show (1292316) 4.15 Vanessa (4336774) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (9158438) 5.00 FreeScreen (88294)

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (4327118) 1.00 Home and Away (33712) 1.30 Home and Away (33712) 2.25 Not Fade Away (557231) 3.20 The Chart Show (1292316) 4.15 Vanessa (4336774) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen (9158438) 5.00 FreeScreen (88294)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (403408) 7.30-8.00 Llangollen International Elsteddodd (731) 10.45 Wales This Week (916606) 11.15 We Can Work It Out (946847) 11.45 Swift Justice (846267)

HTV WEST
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CHANNEL 4
6.00am Sesame Street (1) (33460)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (87606)
9.00 Simon and Laura (1955) Comedy. Peter Finch and Kay Kendall as comelysome married actors with a hit television series. Directed by Murray Close (79872915)
10.40 The Three Stooges (1768877)
11.00 On the Road to the Islands (677) St Martin, Rosewar, St Agnes and Trecoon on the Isles of Scilly (1) (8054)
11.30 Powerhouse (7793)
12.00 Sesame Street (84070)
12.30pm Light Lunch with the stars of *Ballykissangel* (1) (6550083)
1.35 Collectors' Lot (1) (4228422)
1.55 Racing from Newmarket brought Scott introduces the 2.05, 2.35, 3.05 and 3.40 races (9389996)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (460) 4.30 Countdown (1) (3312606) 4.55 Ricki Lake (5899809) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (966)
6.00 Rosamond (1) (1) (809)
6.30 Hollyoaks (489)
7.00 News and weather (1) (41064)
7.50 Talent School: Dance classes (830644)
8.00 Real Gardens: Hampton Court Special The Royal Horticultural Society's annual show (9267)
9.00 Witness Special: Who Killed JonBenét? An interview with John and Patsy Ramsey, whose daughter was murdered at their home on Christmas night 1996. They have never been charged, but the media have accused them of incest and murder (1) (2731)

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SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
6.00am **Comedies** (1945) (07548248) 8.00 **The Fools of Harrow** (1947) (10232) 10.00 **Seduction in a Small Town** (1996) (925326) 12.00 **Anger** (1988) (95151) 2.00pm **Comedies** (1945) (82626) 4.00 **The Fools of Harrow** (1947) (1718) 8.00 **Augustine** (1988) (656773) 8.30 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 11.00 **News** (1988) (656773) 11.45 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 12.00 **News** (1988) (656773) 12.15 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 12.30 **News** (1988) (656773) 12.45 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 1.00 **News** (1988) (656773) 1.15 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 1.30 **News** (1988) (656773) 1.45 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 2.00 **News** (1988) (656773) 2.15 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 2.30 **News** (1988) (656773) 2.45 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 3.00 **News** (1988) (656773) 3.15 **The Crow: City of Angels** (1998) (596986) 3.30 **News** (1988) 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CRICKET 48, 49
Lara runs into form at right time for Warwickshire

SPORT

GOLF 44
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THURSDAY JULY 9 1998

Defender's double takes hosts past Croatia and into World Cup showdown with Brazil

France take final cue from Thuram

France 2
Croatia 1

FROM OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

THE whole of France was en fête last night after they won their way through to the World Cup final for the first time with a dramatic, nerve-jangling victory over the brave underdogs of Croatia in front of an impassioned crowd here in the Stade de France.

France, who won the game courtesy of two finely taken goals by their right back, Lilian Thuram, have fallen three times at the semi-final stage before, in 1958, 1982 and 1986, but they banished those memories and will now face Brazil in the same stadium on Sunday.

But they will have to fight the attacking might of Ronaldo, Rivaldo and his team-mates without their influential sweeper, Laurent Blanc, who was dismissed 16 minutes from the end for aiming a blow at the Croatia defender, Slaven Bilic. It is likely to mean a World Cup final starting position for the Chelsea defender, Frank Lebour.

Enormous pressure had been building on France since Friday, when they squeezed past Italy in a penalty shoot-out after a goalless draw here. The host nation could hardly contain itself over the thought that its team might progress further in the competition than ever before. However, in the first half, just as they had been against Italy, France were emasculated by their lack of attacking potency. They have a wonderful defence and a midfield to match, but it had been obvious to all their critics that they would struggle in the final third of the pitch.

On the big occasions, when the nerves take hold and a team needs an explosion from a forward — such as the one that Ronaldo provided for



Stanic tumbles over Desailly's challenge last night

Brazil against Holland on Tuesday night — a piece of individual flair will get a goal when a team does not really deserve one. At the moment, with the team preferred by their coach, Aimé Jacquet, France do not possess such a forward.

They rely, instead, almost solely on the dynamic creative influence of Zinedine Zidane, and for much of the first half

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he shouldered the burden of trying to break the deadlock against this obdurate Croatia side that was uncompromising in its tackling and clever at breaking up the play and shaking France out of their rhythm.

With only the cumbersome Stephane Guivarch in attack, Zidane broke forward again and again to try to get the goal that would calm his team's nerves. In the fourth minute, a back-heel from Guivarch

from Asanovic that would have left him with only the goalkeeper to beat.

At the beginning of the second half, though, the match burst ferociously into life. Twenty seconds after the restart, Asanovic strode forward from midfield and clipped a fine pass through to Suker, who was being played outside by Thuram. The Real Madrid striker brought the ball down with his first touch and then struck it past Barthez with his second.

The crowd was stunned, but France responded immediately. Thuram, atoning for his error, stole the ball off Boban on the edge of the Croatia area and slipped a pass to Djorkaeff. He threaded the ball back to him and Thuram hit it past Ladic for the equaliser.

After that, the frenetic pace of the game hardly dropped. Zidane had a goal-bound volley hacked away by Bilic and Thuram nearly allowed Croatia another golden opportunity when he lost the ball to Viaoic on the right. But as the Croatia forward bore down on goal, Thuram redeemed himself with a saving tackle.

He went one better in the seventieth minute when he burst forward again down the right, played a one-two with Trezeguet and curled a fierce left-foot shot into the far corner of the net.

Just when France seemed to have finally taken control of the game, though, they were dealt a grievous blow. Blanc, their sweeper, was jockeying for position with Bilic at a France free kick when he pushed the Everton defender in the face with his left hand. The referee had no choice but to show him the red card and consign him to the miserable fate of missing the final, and his team to a nerve-racking last quarter of an hour.

France (4-3-2-1): F Barthez (AS Monaco) — L Thuram (Parma), L Blanc (Barcelona), M Desailly (Chelsea), S Lizarazu (Bayern Munich) — C Karembeu (Real Madrid) sub: T Henry, AS Monaco, 31 min; D Deschamps (Lorient), E Petit (Arsenal) — Z Zidane (Juventus), Y Djorkaeff (Internazionale) sub: F Lillo (Lazio), Chelsea, 70; S Guivarch (Newcastle United) sub: D Trezeguet, AS Monaco, 69.

Croatia (3-4-1-2): D Ladic (Croatia Zagreb) — S Bilic (Gent), I Simic (Dinamo Zagreb), D Susic (Croatia Zagreb) — M Stanic (Parma) sub: R Prosinacki, Croatia Zagreb, 90; Z Susic (AS Saint-Germain), A Alimovic (Napoli), R Jarni (Real Betis) — Z Boban (AC Milan) sub: S Matic, Croatia Zagreb, 60; G Vucovic (Milan), D Suker (Real Madrid).
Referee: J Garcia-Andrade (Spain).



Blanc, who was later sent off, congratulates Thuram on the first of his two goals that gave France victory

Defences come out second-best in archetypal game of two halves

Rob Hughes sees fortunes change dramatically for the host nation

Pandemonium can be a wonderful quality in the stadium. For 35 minutes defences had ruled and caution had stifled the life out of forwards — hardly surprising since both sides were on the brink of their first World Cup final. France have reached this situation through solidity in defence, conceding a solitary goal in the tournament so far, while Croatia had let in just two.

You are a better analyst than I if you can explain how both sides opened up invitingly to give away goals within the first minute of the second half.

Croatia's goal was scored by their master, Davor Suker, and it exploited a lazy offside trap. Aljosa Asanovic, once of Derby County, created the opportunity with a delicious use of his left foot. The blue shirts of France have moved forward, all except Lilian Thuram, the right back.

Suker, with one touch with his own left foot to stun the ball, and then another to guide it past Fabien Barthez, the stranded goalkeeper, and collect his 35th goal in 42 internationals since Croatia became an independent country.

His compatriots were still celebrating, still in idle euphoria when Thuram made amends. He won the ball through sheer persistence and then sprinted five strides to receive it back from Youri Djorkaeff. And this, remarkably, left Thuram as clear of the Croatia defence as Suker had been at the other end seconds earlier. Simple, this goalscoring lark, the full back pushed the ball home with easy relish.

What contrast this to the

first half. Then, indeed, we had seen chess, a fitting game given the red and white checkered shirts of the Croats. Suker, undoubtedly among the finest snipers in world football, stroked right across the France back line, seeking space here, there and everywhere.

Marcel Desailly, born in Accra, naturalised French, and soon to show Chelsea what defending is all about, was magnificent in the art of denial. They stand, Suker and Desailly, as equals, a similar build, a quickness and stealth, leading the play.

And in the ninth minute, we could appreciate the skills that are on their way to the defence of Stamford Bridge. Zvenimir Boban, the Croatia captain,

had lobbed the ball into space behind Desailly. The Frenchman turned to see Suker two yards behind him. Trouble. Then in a couple of strides, the defender as quick as any forward, that gap was closed.

Desailly thundered into a muscular tackle, took the ball cleanly and he then needed the assistance of Laurent Blanc to subdue Suker finally, the significant act of denial then to Desailly.

France has shown in the first half the mettle of their resistance. Thuram then demonstrated that those counter-attacking heart in France as well, scoring not once but twice. It has taken many, many years for the French to rediscover goalscoring. In 1930, Lucien Laurent had the privilege of scoring for France in Montevideo, the first World Cup goal. In 1958, Just Fontaine scored 13 times in six games, the World Cup record.

Both men, happily still alive, witnessed

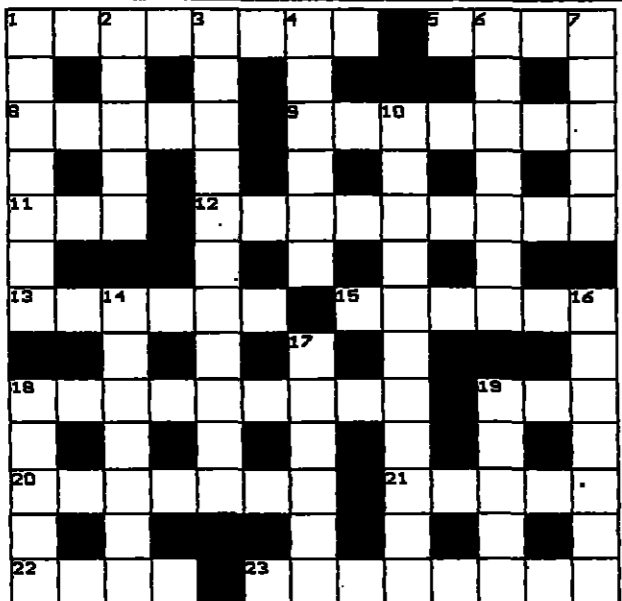
France running defence into attack. But they also saw the ugly side of the game when Blanc was shown the red card for raising his hand to Bilic. Pandemonium in all conceivable motions.

Here, in the maelstrom, was further evidence that referees under censure from Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, will overreact. A red card for the palm of Blanc's hand, nothing for the elbow with which Thierry Henry split open the forehead of Robert Jarni. Indeed, the Spanish referee stood mockingly indicating that Jarni should get up from his "dive" while the blood spurted dramatically.



Suker celebrates after putting Croatia ahead within seconds of the restart in St-Denis

TWO CROSSWORD



No 1453

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Unyielding (8) | 1 Padded backless seat (7) |
| 5 Consider, judge (4) | 2 Engagement book (5) |
| 8 Two (arch.); US author (5) | 3 Cultural revival (11) |
| 9 Think; bounce back (7) | 4 A plant; economy (6) |
| 11 A tree; is allowed to (3) | 6 Babylonian-exile prophet (7) |
| 12 Barren (9) | 7 Rhythm of poem (5) |
| 13 One preferring nakedness (6) | 10 The —, Galsworthy series (7,4) |
| 15 Regularly recurring (6) | 14 Antenive to obligations (7) |
| 18 Monarch (9) | 16 Stronghold (7) |
| 19 Mean dwelling (3) | 17 Succulent plant (6) |
| 20 Wacky (7) | 18 Demonstration (5) |
| 21 Keep away from (5) | 19 Thermonuclear weapon (1-4) |
| 22 Collapse (4) | |
| 23 Modern Constantinople (8) | |

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